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Riviera land lease terminated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has terminated the 55-year ground lease to one of four lots in Fina Sisu where the defunct 134-room Hotel Riviera Saipan is erected.

» Hotel owner ordered to vacate property

The land lease was terminated due to the hotel owner's non-payment of rent in the amount of $176,802 and not maintaining the property since 2012.

In a 131-page order issued Tuesday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho determined that Globuil

See RIVIERA on Page 4

The defunct Hotel Riviera Saipan in Fina Sisu has been closed since 2012. The Superior Court has terminated the 55-year land lease and ordered the owner of the hotel to vacate the premises for failure to pay rent.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

Women who lift each other up

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Long-time friends Kathy Pagapular Ruszala and Robyn Spaeth had their eyes in conquering the half marathon of the 2019 Saipan Marathon last March 9. They both clocked in at the same hour, minute, and second at the finish line and they couldn't be any happier overcoming a mental, emotional, and physical feat than finishing alongside a best friend.

See story on Page 6

CNMI Women's Center opens

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The first-ever CNMI building dedicated solely to the CNMI Women's Association was opened on Capitol Hill last Tuesday with members of the House of Representatives and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), first lady Diann Torres, Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), and more cut the ribbon signifying the grand opening of the CNMI Women's Center last Tuesday morning.

The CNMI Women's Center houses the CWA, which has been in existence for almost eight years, according to CWA program administrator Felicidad Ogumoro.

"The CWA mission is to empower women for leadership as guardians of our *guinaha* [assets] and a vision to embolden CNMI women to be fully engaged in the political, economic, and social development of the commonwealth," she said in a statement.

The CWA provides case manage-

See CNMI on Page 4

Prevailing wage also needed for CW petitions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI employers must also obtain a prevailing wage aside from having a temporary labor certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor when they submit their CNMI-Only Transitional Worker or CW-1 petitions.

See WAGE on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

In celebration of Women's Month, women of Tinian and their allies attacked littering on their island head-on with a 4-mile clean up last March 16.

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NATION

The Democratic-led House failed Tuesday to override President Donald Trump's first veto, salvaging his effort to steer billions of extra dollars to erecting border barriers.

PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Prosecutors abruptly dropped all charges against Jussie Smollett on Tuesday after the "Empire" actor agreed to let the city keep his $10,000 in bail.

PAGE 21

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Over $200K in relief supplies distributed on Tinian

The Office of the Governor, through the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, held a relief distribution drive for Super Typhoon Yutu recovery on Tinian this past weekend.

The project, which was funded federally by the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program, drew a large crowd to the Tinian Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' gymnasium. Over $200,000 worth of relief supplies were distributed to assist Tinian in its recovery efforts.

According to OGM-SC administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr., approximately 750 packages and fuel vouchers were distributed for the island's residents.

"Items included hygiene and cleaning products, mosquito nets, pillows, linens, water drums, butane gas stoves, butane fuel, and gas containers. Approximately 80 percent of people who received a tent through the TETRIS program availed of additional fuel vouchers, while almost 800 residents received 10-gallon fuel vouchers for generators," Cabrera said.

As Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the island of Tinian, it has been imperative to provide much-needed recovery efforts to its citizens. This project aimed to provide much-needed supplies for those in temporary dwellings, items of which that could not be purchased directly by FEMA. The award from the Office of Insular Affairs allowed the OGM-SC to collaborate with the Tinian Mayor's Office to supply basic necessities to many displaced residents.

"Super Typhoon Yutu devastated our islands. Extensive damage was caused to critical infrastructure, and lasting impacts have been made to our Commonwealth. Relief and recovery efforts have been ongoing since the typhoon. While we have made great progress in strengthening our infrastructure, providing assistance to our people will continue to be a top priority," Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said.

"We would like to extend our appreciation to the Office of Insular Affairs for their continued assistance to our islands. It is because of projects like this that we are able to provide much-needed supplies to the Commonwealth's residents," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan expressed his sincere gratitude for the Office of the Governor, OGM-SC, and Office of Insular Affairs for all the aid they have provided for the island and its residents.

"The recovery is still an ongoing process that has proven to be very challenging for our people. However, we have remained strong because of the spirit of *ina'famaolek*. We greatly appreciate all the help that each agency involved has given during these recovery efforts."

The Tinian recovery drive proved to be a success. The next relief drive, sponsored by OIA and Office of the Governor, for the island of Saipan is forthcoming. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A relief distribution drive for Super Typhoon Yutu recovery was held on Tinian this past weekend.

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Burglarized shop owner stumbles upon surveillance footage

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

One of the more popular floral arrangement shops on Saipan was burglarized for the second time this year, but its owner has stumbled upon video footage capturing the alleged culprit.

Last Sunday, Island Touch by Philip was burglarized for the second time this year but this time, shop owner Philip Canuto has surveillance footage that could aid police in capturing the culprit.

Canuto said in an interview yesterday that the shop next door to his was able to capture a man, in shorts and a red-toned T-shirt, just circling the area around the same time he was robbed.

Canuto has yet to turn over the footage to the police because he aims to acquire footage from another neighboring establishment, Mobil Gas Station Susupe, to clearly catch the culprit in the act.

Canuto also mentioned that an acquaintance identified the male in the surveillance video and claims that he lives right behind the shop in Susupe.

Canuto thinks that the individual could be the same individual who robbed the shop back in January that police have yet to catch.

Canuto told the *Saipan Tribune* that before he closed shop around 10pm on Sunday, he went to a store to buy cookies for gift baskets he was working on.

He left the shop with all the lights on and the shutters closed, but he did not lock the door because he would be coming back soon.

Canuto said when he came back, he found the lights at the shop all turned off and he knew immediately that something was wrong.

Canuto said his laptop, which he used for his business transactions, and the shop cash register were no longer on his desk.

Canuto said an employee of the shop next door told him that a man wearing a red shirt and short pants was walking back and forth outside the flower shop shortly before Canuto left for the nearby store.

Canuto said he called 911 and the Department of Public Safety responded quickly.

Canuto said he found the change tray of his shop's cash register on the ground outside his flower shop the following morning and it was nearly empty.

Canuto declined to state how much cash the register contained before the robbery.

Canuto said he is in the process of upgrading his shop's surveillance system.

Shake-and-bake defendant appeals to 9th Circuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man who was recently slapped with a 15-year prison sentence in federal court for his involvement in a clandestine crystal methamphetamine lab that used the so-called shake-and-bake method is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Vincent David Cabrera Jr., through counsel Benjamin K. Petersburg, notified the District Court yesterday about his appeal.

Cabrera seeks the Ninth Circuit's reversal of the judgment and the 15-year sentence imposed on him.

Petersburg did not indicate in the notice the grounds of defendant's appeal.

Cabrera was cited as the one who had a prior experience in the shake-and-bake method while in Guam, and that he brought it on Saipan.

Last March 15, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Cabrera and co-defendant Eugene Blas Repeki Jr. with 15 years imprisonment each.

At the March 15 sentencing, Petersburg recommended a sentence of 10 years imprisonment on Cabrera.

Cabrera and Repeki signed a plea deal with the U.S. government. Last September, Cabrera pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. Repeki pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

According to court documents, between on or July 1, 2017 and Feb. 25, 2018, Cabrera along with Repeki, Rick U. Omar Jr., Sidney Capelle Kani, and others, agreed to manufacture methamphetamine.

Cabrera admitted that they would smoke the "ice" as well as sell and/or give to other people.

PSS eyes CDBG reinstatement

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Public School System and the Board of Education last Tuesday agreed to discuss with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. how they could be reinstated into the Community Development Block Grant to secure funding for several capital improvement projects.

The PSS and the BOE last Tuesday were told by NMHC deputy director Jeannie Mafnas during Tuesday's regular board meeting at the BOE office in Capitol Hill that in order to be reinstated in the CDBG program, they would first have to reimburse the NMHC for previous balances owed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

PSS, according to Mafnas, approached NMHC in order to secure federal disaster recovery funding. However, the funding is distributed through the CDBG grant and is known as CDBG Disaster Recovery. NMHC administers all CDBG grant applications for the CNMI.

However, in order to secure CDBG Disaster Recovery funds, the applying agency must first be allowed to apply for CDBG, which PSS is unable to because of previously abandoned projects that were funded by the CDBG.

"Right now, to even apply through NMHC for CDBG funds, [PSS] is not allowed," Mafnas said.

She clarified with *Saipan Tribune* that in order to be reinstated to the CDBG program, PSS needs to pay the $96,375.85, which was the amount NMHC had to pay the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the CDBG projects that were not completed.

Saipan Tribune learned that the $96,375.85 consisted of $69,575.30 to secure collateral equipment for Marianas High School in 2006; $17,000 in architecture and engineering fees for the Saipan Southern High School swimming pool in 2009; and the $9,800 in architecture and engineering fees for the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School library expansion back in 2009. All the mentioned projects according to NMHC were not completed.

According to a PSS report, NMHC invested over $1.28 million for the acquisition of the Koblerville property and over $1.68 million in architecture and engineering design fees of "middle school and gym," totaling to over $2.97 million in additional invested NMHC funds for PSS that were not completed.

According to Mafnas, the total pot money for the CDBG Disaster Recovery money amounts to a total of over $1 billion. She further noted that according to HUD, the CNMI suffered the most in terms of damages from natural disasters.

She further noted that currently, the NMHC is preparing the necessary documents in anticipation for a possible CDBG Disaster Recovery allocation.

Lion's Club health fair this Sunday

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Lion's Club International in District 204, Region 2 this weekend will be holding its annual health fair, which will provide medical services, demonstrations, and distributions free of charge.

The socio-civic organization will hold its annual health fair this Sunday, March 31, from 8am to 12pm at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Susupe.

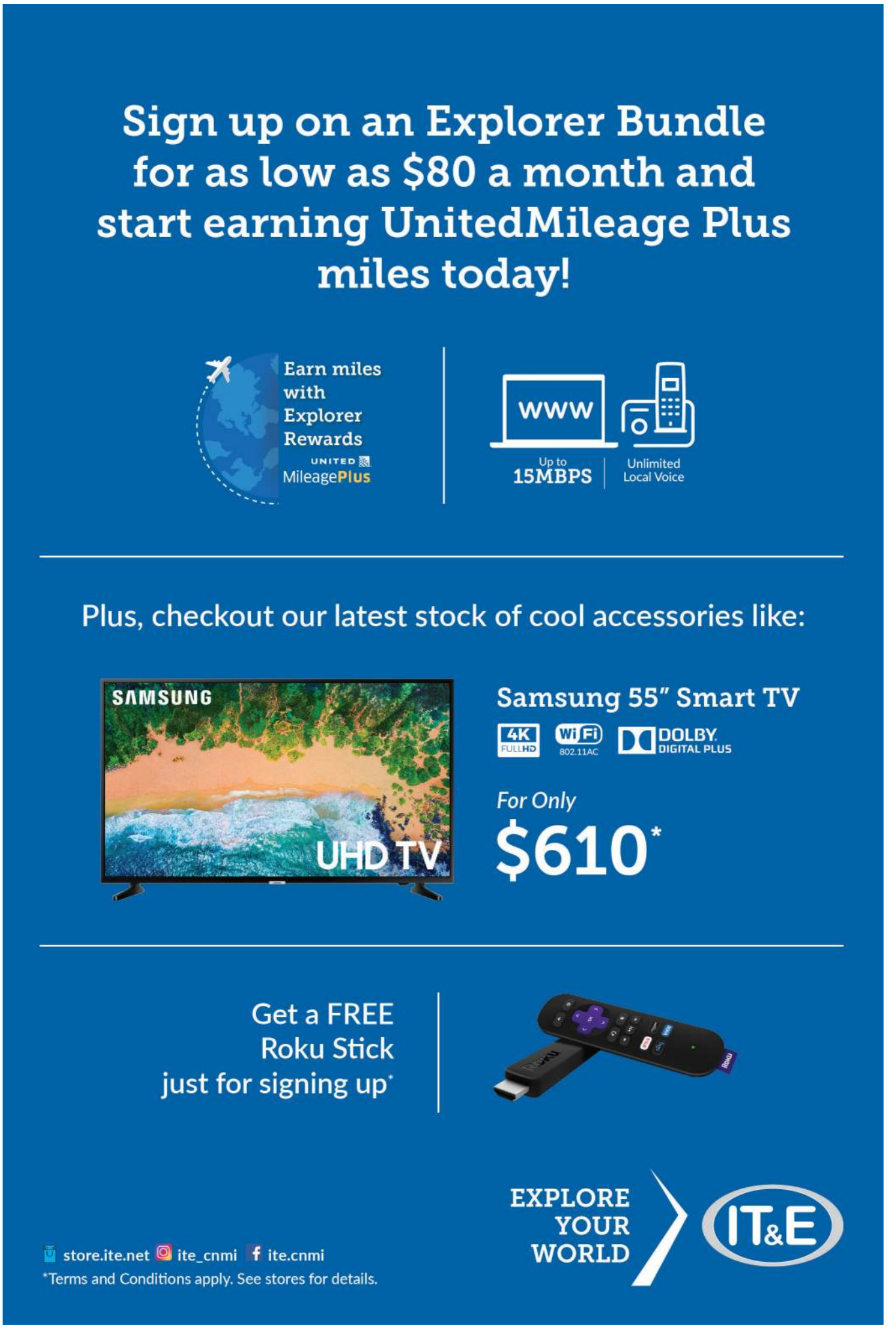
The organization noted that it would be providing services such as blood pressure checks, blood sugar testing, vision checks, diabetes awareness, cancer awareness, oral cancer screenings, cardiopulmonary resuscitation demonstrations, reading glasses distribution, and general health awareness.

The organization further noted that the health fair seeks to promote "general health awareness that will improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle" according to an announcement from the organization.

The Lion's Club International District 204, Region 2 is composed of six clubs on Saipan, namely the Saipan Fil-Am Lion's Club, the Saipan Unity Lion's Club, the Saipan Marianas Lion's Club, the Saipan Alliance Lion's Club, the Saipan Natibu Lion's Club, and the Saipan Centennial Lion's Club.

"Each [club] can create their own projects on club level in which we focus on five services challenge for youth, environment, vision, hunger, and diabetes," the organization noted in a statement.

For more details on the health fair and for those interested in donating for the event, contact region chair Annamae Adaza at 285-4388; zone 1 chair Al Cabael at 483-4663; zone 2 chair Argie Buensalido at 483-4512; assistant cabinet secretary Bhiya Canadalla at 285-6899; treasurer Yho Villavicencio at 285-9017; public relations officer Mario Mayuga at 285-1021; or sergeant-at-arms Guillermo Canapa Jr. at 989-1360, or by visiting their website at lionsclubs.org.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Shinoda bids farewell

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japanese consul to Saipan yesterday afternoon abruptly announced his retirement and is leaving for Japan today.

After serving the CNMI as a connection to the Japanese government for nearly two years, Kinji Shinoda, 63, officially announced his retirement.

"I hope that Japan and the CNMI will promote the already existing excellent friendship further… in [the] future. I wish you all the best," he said in a brief email to *Saipan Tribune.*

Shinoda noted that he would be leaving for Japan today.

"I will be leaving Saipan [today] before my retirement of the [Japanese] Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 31, 2019," he wrote, adding a message expressing his gratitude towards those he had worked with in the past on Saipan.

Shinoda

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, noted that Shinoda was a great help in promoting the islands to Japan.

"I want to thank him for working with us here in the CNMI. He made a lot of recommendations here for the Japanese people," he said, adding that Shinoda was constantly in touch with the CNMI Japanese Association as well.

"I wish him the best of luck for his retirement," the Saipan mayor continued.

Shinoda did not mention in his email of a replacement consul for the CNMI.

Projects Shinoda promoted in the CNMI included teaching opportunities in Japan, the introduction of unique sake to the CNMI, the establishment of the CNMI Japanese Descent Association, and many more.

RIVIERA

From Page 1

Resort Saipan, the owner of Hotel Riviera, has materially breached the ground lease and that termination is the appropriate remedy.

Camacho said Globuil Holdings or Globuil Resort should be removed from the land and possession should be restored to PRC LLC.

PRC holds the fee simple and underlying lease for approximately one-half of the property. The lease ends on Dec. 29, 2043. The Tenorio family holds the other half of the land where the buildings sit.

PRC LLC's sole member is Allen Perez. Changsin Resort Saipan Corp., the former owner of the hotel changed. its corporate name to Globuil Resort Saipan Corp. prior to the trial.

The trial was held from March 12 to 15, 2018. Robert T. Torres served as counsel for PRC, which filed the lawsuit in 2012 for breach of contract and other claims.

Globuil Resort Saipan, formally known as Chang Shin Resort Saipan Corp., was represented by Mark Scoggins.

Camacho said PRC, which leased the land to Globuil, is entitled to recover the land.

Camacho said PRC did not lease a hotel to Globuil, therefore, if PRC chooses to remove the hotel, fixtures, etc. then PRC is entitled to reasonable cost of removing the hotel, fixtures, etc. from the land.

Camacho said if PRC does not initiate removal of the hotel, fixtures, etc. within one year of this order, then PRC receives and accepts the property "as is."

The judge said he made this decision as there was nothing in the ground lease that required Globuil to give back any developed structure such as a fully functional multi-million dollar hotel on the property to PRC at the end of the lease.

Camacho said PRC is entitled to indemnification from Globuil Resort for its attorney's fees and expenses of litigation pursuant to ground lease.

As the prevailing party, he said, PRC is entitled to recover attorneys' fees and costs from Globuil Resort.

He directed PRC to submit within 10 days from entry of judgment in this case, a bill of its litigation costs, court costs, and attorney's fees expended in this matter.

Camacho said Globuil Resort shall have seven days following service of the bill costs and motion for fees to respond to PRC's submissions, following which the matter may either be set for hearing or decided by the court.

Camacho ordered PRC counsel Torres to submit a proposed judgment for the court which shall include the actual amount of rent, attorney fees, and costs owed as of the date of this order.

Camacho said he retains jurisdiction to enforce this order.

According to the court's findings, Mr. Kyung Duk Park, who purchased all of the shares of Globuil Resort in February 2013, served as president and an officer of Globuil Resort from February 2013 to 2015.

In 2014 to 2015, Park transferred his shares of Globuil Resort to Globuil Holdings, a company organized in the Republic of Korea. He provided testimony at trial.

In 2007, Hotel Riviera's operations were a growing concern as its leasehold interest depreciated at a cost value of $10.7 million and a per-room value of $79,851.

Up until 2012, the condition of the hotel and its amenities were good, clean, kept-up, and nice.

This changed for the worse starting in February through May 2012. In February or March, electrical power at the hotel transferred from CUC power to the hotel's generator due to unpaid electrical bills and was periodically shut off.

By April 2012, maintenance of the hotel's swimming pool had ceased to a point where it was unusable by tenants and guests.

The manager of the hotel, a certain Ms. Lee, also disappeared in April 2012. The generator stopped providing electricity to the hotel entirely on May 5, 2012.

In June 2012, the hotel was closed. All of the hotel's staff was gone and all of the tenants had moved out. In their wake, 24-hour security services from an independent contractor were instituted for the hotel. This service continued up to the date of trial.

According to Akhil Mollick, the president of Mollik Enterprises, which has provided the security services since June 2012, the hotel has only been cleaned once since 2012—by a Korean company sometime "way back before" and prior to Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

Mollik Enterprises conducted a limited cleaning in January of 2018 under its manpower services.

In 2013, an inspection by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Bureau of Environmental Health found conditions at the hotel to be unsanitary and demonstrating poor maintenance.

This inspection found the hotel abandoned, not operating, without guests, overgrown with knee-high grass, and with green algae buildup in the non-circulating swimming pool.

In 2015, Soudelor damaged the hotel's buildings and made conditions at the hotel even worse, breaking windows and causing 15 percent of roof tiles to fall from the rooftop.

Up to 2018, the hotel was never reopened. There is no power or water at the hotel. The swimming pool is not working and looks liked a pond until the Mollick cleaning in January 2018.

Camacho finds that the property was not maintained in a clean condition from June of 2012 to the Mollick cleaning in January 2018.

Camacho said if Globuil refuses to voluntarily vacate the property within 30 days of this order, PRC may inform the court to consider as part of the entry of judgment issued pursuant to this decision, for the court to instruct the clerk of court to issue a writ describing the lot and commanding the officer to whom the writ is directed to remove all persons from the premises, and put PRC in possession.

Camacho said PRC has not failed to perform its obligations under the covenant of good faith and fair dealing implied into the ground lease and finds in favor of PRC as to this breach of contract claim by Global Resort.

He said as a result of Globuil Resort's failure to pay the full amount of rent due under the ground lease, PRC suffered resulting damages in the amount of $176,802 as of the date of trial.

This amount, Camacho said, includes the resulting damages in the amount of $128,802 from Globuil Resort's failure to make timely monthly rental payments.

He said Globuil Resort's failure to perform the covenants of ground lease has resulted in damages to PRC.

CNMI

From Page 1

ment including career assessment, onsite training, employment readiness, and referral services for women.

"The CWA has been supporting women [by] providing tools necessary for them to succeed in the community, in the workplace, and in their personal development," she continued.

The new women's center houses a reference library or library on women's education, careers, and employment opportunities. Staff will continue facilitating services for clients needing to complete their adult basic education and GED certificate. Ogumoro added that the center also includes a computer station, a meeting room and lounge, and even a couple of staff offices.

CWA board member Jacqueline Che told *Saipan Tribune* that recognizing the women in the CNMI was important because it is beneficial to the community as a whole.

"When women are fully appreciated and allowed to blossom and thrive, we are paving the way for the next generation, just as our mothers, grandmothers, and foremothers did for us," Che said.

"Empowered women with a voice in decision making are role models for the next generation of leaders," she continued.

WAGE

From Page 1

These are the requirements stated in the interim final rule for temporary employment in the CNMI released by the Labor department.

The IFR takes effect on April 4, 2019 at 12am (eastern time), the same day when U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services begins accepting CW-1 petitions. CW-1 applications won't be accepted until the IFR takes its full effect on the said date.

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. stated that there are enough CW-1 visas for fiscal year 2020, which starts on Oct. 1, 2019 since USCIS indicated only 9,000 slots of the 13,000 available in the current FY were utilized.

The Labor department came out with the IFR based on the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 or Public Law 115-218 where Section 3 (2)(A) states that a TLC is required when a petition is filed while a prevailing wage survey [Section 3 (2)(B)] is also needed to bring about the TLC requirement.

The CNMI Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the NMBAC, has obtained the services of Hive Analytics and DataTalks to assist them in conducting a PWS by sector in the CNMI, a task they hope to accomplish soon in order to establish a CNMI PWS.

Section 3 (2) [Protection for U.S. Workers] (B)(ii) P.L. 115-218 indicates that the average salaries followed in Guam will be the alternative basis for an occupation in the CNMI in the absence of a PWS for the Commonwealth.

The IFR is part of the process where a CNMI employer must obtain a prevailing wage and a TLC from U.S. Labor, which will be used as their petition to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to employ foreign workers under the CW-1 program. The TLC would confirm that there's an insufficient number of qualified U.S. workers for a particular job in the CNMI.

DHS may deny the CW-1 applications unless an employer or petitioner applied for a TLC to the Labor department that confirms the CNMI has not enough U.S. qualified workers on the said occupation, which would require a guest worker to fill in the position.

Employers must then submit their petitions 120 days before the date when the foreign worker's services will be needed or 180 days, in case of renewals of already hired guest workers, before the expiration of the CW-1 work permit.

The IFR, according to the Labor department, would help establish a robust use of domestic recruitment and increase the chances of U.S. workers being hired to occupy positions that would otherwise go to a foreign worker.

"The rule also establishes important protections for both CW-1 and U.S. workers in corresponding employment and ensures that no U.S. worker is placed at a competitive disadvantage compared to a CW-1 worker or is displaced by a CW-1 worker," said the Labor department in a statement.

"Several provisions will improve transparency between employers and workers, such as requiring employers to provide workers with detailed earnings statements on or before each payday, disclose all deductions from pay, and a copy of the work contract in a language understood by the workers."

U.S. Labor is also authorized to impose sanctions to employers that would violate the requirements to protect the program from fraud or any form of abuse. Sanctions include intensive or assisted recruitment requirements, revocation of a granted TLC, and debarment from all employment-based immigration for up to five years.

Webinars

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification, a division of the Employment and Training Administration of the Labor Department, will be holding webinars on March 28 and April 2, 2019 for CNMI employers to provide guidelines and additional information on the new system.

The webinars, a part of OFLC's public awareness campaign, would provide technical assistance to CNMI employers or any of their authorized representatives—lawyers or agents—in completing and submitting CW-1 applications for TWC's.

The March 28 and April 2 webinar is from 8am to 9am Chamorro Standard Time or March 27 and April 1 from 6pm to 7:30pm Eastern Standart Time.

Teleconference for both meetings can also be done through a toll free number at 888-603-7040 or toll free at 1-312-470-0014.

The webinar links for March 28 (CST) is https://dolevents.webex.com/dolevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec8b22804075b9d3689d107f3b6ef5f1c and on April 2 (April 1 EST) at https://dolevents.webex.com/dolevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e236a06b6c9f922d90384d08b3f60a6ce.

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By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

Women who lift each other up

Long-time friends Kathy Pagapular Ruszala and Robyn Spaeth had their eyes in conquering the half marathon of the 2019 Saipan Marathon last March 9. They both clocked in at the same hour, minute, and second at the finish line and they couldn't be any happier

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robyn Spaeth and Kathy Pagpular Ruszala sprint to the finish line of the Saipan Marathon last March 9.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Robyn Spaeth, Kathy Pagpular Ruszala, and Kimiko McKagan pose before the start of the Saipan Marathon 2019 last March 9.

overcoming a mental, emotional, and physical feat than finishing alongside a best friend.

"Around Mile 10, I felt myself slowing down and walking more, but Robyn came from behind and said, 'Let's go, champ, we're almost there. You can walk at the water stop.' She could've easily passed me as she was feeling good but her encouragement was exactly what I needed," recalled Ruszala.

"Running a marathon which is an endurance sport is a mental game. Sometimes all you need to get through is the simplest of words from a person who believes in you," she added.

According to Spaeth, Ruszala was ahead of her for at least 10 miles during the race.

"From my view point, it looked like Kathy was just flying through the course so it really helped keep me motivated to pick up the speed. Finally, during the last 2-3 miles I decided that she was looking a little 'lonely' and that I needed to pick it up if I was ever going to catch her," she said.

"By the time I finally got up to her I didn't think I could hold the pace with her but she yelled plenty of encouraging visuals to help me keep going… I believe that when trying to encourage others to keep going, it helps keep me motivated and focused," she added.

Training and preparing for sports events are one of the things that these women enjoy doing together.

"Robyn coaches a fitness group at Saipan International School so I run with them when I have a prep period during their class. We also run around the track on Monday afternoons," Ruszala said.

"Robyn often finds these training schedule and we attempt to follow it or modify them to fit our needs. At the end of each run, we gather all our little ones and do a lap with them for our cool down and that's always my favorite part," she added.

Spaeth said that Ruszala is an ideal partner to train. "Kathy and I are both very similar in our athletics… we are currently training together for the Tagaman and the half marathon in Guam in April."

"It's so encouraging to have someone to train with, especially on those days that you are dreading getting out there and putting in the time. Thankfully, Kathy and I both are good at trying to push each other, whether that be to run harder or farther or to sign up for events like the Tagaman," she said.

Aside from the same interest in fitness, Ruszala and Spaeth are co-teachers at Saipan International School.

"I work primarily with elementary while Robyn teaches middle and high school so we rarely get the chance to collaborate professionally. But when we do, it's a lot of fun," Ruszala said.

"Meetings are far more entertaining. Being each other's sounding board when it comes to school affairs that helps put things in perspective," Ruszala added.

Spaeth echoes the same sentiments "I love working with Kathy. She has been such a great source of knowledge for me, especially in coming up with creative and motivational techniques to use in the classroom."

Spaeth pointed out that their

See WOMEN on Next Page

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW19-RFP-002

ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SUGAR DOCK FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for **Architectural-Engineering Services for the Reconstruction of Sugar Dock Facility**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **March 28, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **April 16, 2019**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 26, 2019.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW19-RFP-002**". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 10, 2019**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 10, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 10, 2019** – AND must be received no later than **May 21, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

JOE A. TUDELA
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net • Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 8 am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/13/19)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Letter from J. Maratita (Licensed Prof. Counselor & Clinical Psychology Associate)

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
- Email from Dr. Y. Khan (Physician license #0640)
- Professional Background Check
  - Which professions?
  - Costs/Budget & Feasibility?
  - Pass the cost on to the candidates?
- Dental Regulations
- Pharmacy Regulations

XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Applications
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

MATTHEW T. GREGORY (F0205)
LAW OFFICE OF MATTHEW T. GREGORY, LLC
Suite 603, Marianas Business Plaza
Nauru Loop, Susupe
PMB 419 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No: 670.234.9005/6
Fax No: 670.235.9007
Email Address: matt@gregoryfirm.com

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR CHILD SHEIRA MICHAELA GARCIA DELA ROSA, Minor Child, by GISEL DELA ROSA ACHAS	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0105 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE is hereby given that GISEL DELA ROSA ACHAS have filed a petition for the legal guardianship of the Minor Child in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Guma Husticia, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI, and at the Law Office of Matthew T. Gregory, LLC, Suite 603, Marianas Business Plaza, Nauru Loop, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI.

A hearing on the above-captioned matter will be held on April 8, 2019, at 9:00am at the Suite 212, Marianas Business Plaza, Nauru Loop, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Steffy to keynote CNMI Women's Summit

The keynote address at this year's CNMI Women's Summit that will be held on Saipan will be delivered by Rlene Santos Steffy, ethnographer, oral historian, and research associate at the University of Guam's Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC).

A daughter of the Marianas, Steffy has contributed 40 years of historic preservation efforts through mass communication.

Considered the leading oral history practitioner in the region, her interviews and photographs have been published in local, regional, national and international conferences. Her achievements and scholarship earned her the Guam Preservation Trust Chairman's Award, which for the first time in Guam history was awarded to a recipient who has displayed outstanding leadership in historic preservation.

Steffy received a presidential appointment at the Richard Flores Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center, as a research associate on Aug. 10, 2007, with the title ethnographer and oral historian. She is considered the leading oral history practitioner in Micronesia by academic, business, media, local and federal government entities.

Over the past 41 years, she has developed into mass communication specialist incorporating a unique combination of professional, practical and academic casework and experience in the areas of advertising, electronic media, public relations, cyberjournalism, broadcast journalism, and photojournalism. She has flourished as an investigative reporter, public relations manager, marketing and advertising manager, videographer, newspaper columnist and managing editor, a documentary film producer, and author of CHamoru children's books and *Wildlife of the Mariana Islands Beginners Guild* booklets.

As a proficient speaker in CHamoru and English languages, a skill of utmost importance in producing and documenting bilingual projects in mass media, Steffy has produced 10 locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally acclaimed Guam history video documentaries with grants from the Guam Historic Resource Division-National Park Service, Guam Legislature, and private funds.

Steffy

Steffy is the first historian to produce the history of Guam—from 1521 through 1898—in 36 half-hour video episodes for television on the peopling of the Mariana Islands. It's entitled *iTinaotao Marianas*, and it premiered in Guam on March 2014 and ran through September 2018 on KUAM TV8. It has also aired here in Saipan.

On March 11, 2019, Steffy ended her 25th year as a newspaper columnist which began with the *Pacific Sunday News* in 1994. In 1997, after immersing herself as a social, cultural, and political commentator as a newspaper columnist, she became a talk show host on K57 Radio while continuing to write her *Pacific Sunday News* column. In 2000 Steffy became the managing editor for the *Guam Variety Newspaper*. In 2001 she went back to K57 Radio and began hosting a two-hour weekly show, and soon after she became K57 Radio's first investigative reporter.

Steffy's interviews and photographs have been published in local, regional, national, and international magazines and news organizations and presented at international conferences. They have also been published in technical reports for the International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Cardno, Micronesian Archaeological Research Services and MARC.

She and her husband, Robert J. Steffy Sr., have published two editions of the 1908 Chamorro Diglot Bible and 10 local, national, and internationally acclaimed Guam History video documentaries with grants from the Guam Historic Resource Division-National Park Service, Guam Legislature, and private funds.

According to the CNMI Women's Summit Steering Committee, this year's Women's Summit was conceived to promote the empowerment of women through women's woven voices, particularly by opening up discussion and engaging in deep conversation about issues that affect women.

"We recognize the power of storytelling for cultivating the empowerment of women. As a gifted storyteller, Rlene brings histories and 'her-stories' to life. Stories create a personal connection that goes beyond the data; they endure the test of time by influencing and inspiring others to take action."

The daylong event will be held Friday, March 29, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and will revolve around the theme: "Lead-HER-Ship: Masters of our own Destiny."

The summit will also feature a panel discussion and group breakout working session in the afternoon, where issues for policy advocacy and change and recommendations when/where policy is appropriate will be discussed and formalized as recommendations to the 21st CNMI Legislature.

For more information on the summit and the program, email cnmiwomen@gmail.com, visit https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/, or call (670) 233-8978.

Interested participants may register at: bit.ly/cnmiwomenssummit.

Northern Marianas College will be live-streaming the morning session for those who wish to participate virtually: www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Operation Christmas Child events this weekend

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child children's events and distributions begin this weekend, March 29-31. Events are for all children ages 2-14 who have registered. Remember you must bring your ticket with you to your assigned event. One ticket per child. Children must be present to participate. If you have any questions or wish to register for a future event please email OCCCNMI@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Free probate workshop on Tinian

The Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be holding a free probate workshop today, March 28, at the Tinian Public Library, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

The workshop covers two sessions, including preliminaries to filing in court, accessing bank funds, and handling small estates. Materials on the related subject will be provided.

The workshop will be handled by directing lawyer Jane Mack. This is part of a series of workshops related to probate manners.

For questions or to register call 234-7729 or email pollyanne@mlscnet.org. ***(PR)***

CUC warns vs use of large appliances

Those living in the villages of Kagman, Koberville, Dandan, As Terlaje, and Fina Sisu are being urged to conserve their use of high-powered appliances that may result in low voltage performance due to the ongoing work being performed by line crews of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its contractor. Primary Source Electric, today, March 27, 2019.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, in open ocean, at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy and Air Force is conducting training at Farallon de Medinilla until March 29, from 8am to 10pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct an open-ocean exercise from 7pm of March 28, to 1am of March 29, at the following coordinates: 13° 26"N/145° 08"E, 13° 42"N/144° 36"E.

The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 30, from 10am to 6pm. ***(PR)***

Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby set

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 15th Annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby on March 30, 2019. Prizes will include $1,000 cash for first place, with remaining placement prizes to be announced. The registration fee is $100 per boat, including one captain and one angler, and $10 for each additional angler. For more information, contact Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Ray Villagomez at 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Weightlifting competition on Saipan

CNMI Weightlifting will hold a weightlifting competition on Saipan on May 18, 2019, at a time and place to be announced later. ***(PR)***

WOMEN

From Page 6

friendship actually started by encouraging each other as strangers. "One of my first memories was of us running a trail together and part of the trail required that we had to jump off a cliff into the ocean. Turns out we are both scared of heights," Spaeth said.

"From the very beginning of our friendship we have always been encouraging each other to push ourselves and face our fears. Needless to say, we both ended up jumping off the cliff after much encouragement from one another," she said.

There is a saying that strong people don't put each other down—they lift each other up and Ruszala and Spaeth don't fall short of this real strength.

"I am a scaredy-cat and Robyn is a go-getter so I feed off her positive energy. She laughs easily, even at her own expense, and she is extremely witty… She'll deny it, but her determination to train, to complete a workout, is inspiring," Ruszala said.

"I think women who lift each other up is empowering. We are fortunate to be living in a generation where women succeed and thrive in any area she chooses. As the former first lady, Michelle Obama, so eloquently spoke, 'there is no limit to what we as women can accomplish,'" she said.

Spaeth said that there are so many great things to say about Ruszala. "One quality that really stands out time and again is how thoughtful she is. She is great at paying attention to the small details of a conversation and pulling back to that in the most unexpected moments. She is always so encouraging and she really does see the best in people."

"As a woman, we already have enough obstacles in our way that we really should focus on trying to build one another one. Lifting up other women is the greatest gift you can give," she said.

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Tinian women fight littering for Women's Month

In celebration of Women's Month, women of Tinian and their allies attacked littering on their island head-on with a 4-mile clean up last March 16.

In partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program, the Tinian Ladies Organization rallied participants from five multi-ethnic groups for the campaign, which was led by Rosita Aldan, the wife of Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, and 17th Tinian Municipal Council Chairwoman Thomasa Mendiola. Over 25 bags of debris were collected.

"I want to thank all those who woke up bright and early to participate in our trash-a-ton, especially the women of Tinian," said Mrs. Aldan. "I encourage all Tinian residents to help keep our island clean and to join us as we celebrate March as Women's Month."

MVA

Members of the Tinian Women's Association clean the roadway to the historic Japanese administration era NKK Building on Tinian in The Marianas on March 16, 2019.

The group started at the small marina dock at 6:30am and was able to divide and conquer the territory, due to the large number of participants. One group covered the main roadway and beach leading to the Tinian breakwater, while a second group collected trash along the roadway leading to the historic Japanese administration era Nanyo Kohatsu Kaibushiki Kaisha building. Another group covered 8th Avenue, passing several historic Korean memorials along the way. All groups converged at Lazarino Beach.

"Unexpectedly, there were so much trash collected and much more to be cleaned," said MVA Field Operations manager Vida Borja, who also joined the cleanup.

Beautify My Marianas offers $100 to student or other groups that pick up trash over 1-mile in an assigned area. For more information on Beautify My Marianas or an application, visit the MVA official website at www.mymarianas.com. Groups must apply to participate and document their cleanup with a written report, list of participants, and photos. ***(PR)***

MVA

Members of the Tinian Women's Association collect trash over four miles in The Marianas on March 16, 2019. The cleanup was supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program

Taste of the Marianas Int'l Food Festival returns in May

The Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held in Saipan every Saturday during May Tourism Month at American Memorial Park. The 21st Taste of The Marianas is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority and is one of the largest celebrations in The Marianas.

The MVA has confirmed 23 food and drink beverage vendors for the event, which features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, sales of arts and crafts sales, and more.

"The Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden is the place to be on Saturday nights in May, and we've working on another great month of festivities," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "'Taste' meets an important expectation across all The Marianas' major source markets for the opportunity to experience authentic local cuisine and has the added benefit of offering a full international menu from some of the best kitchens in The Marianas, all in one stop. It's a must-do for visitors and locals alike during Marianas Tourism Month."

MVA

Kinpachi Restaurant serves "takoyaki" (octopus balls) hot at the Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 5, 2018, at American Memorial Park. The Marianas Visitors Authority will host the 21st Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden every Saturday evening in May 2019 in Saipan.

Supporting businesses include Platinum Sponsor Hyatt Regency Saipan and Silver Sponsors Ina's Kitchen, Dave Electronics, and Hawaiian Rock Products. The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday (closing at 11pm on the final night). For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com, www.facebook.com/mymarianas, or email communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 28, 2000

CPA implements new airport fees

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is expecting to generate between $1.3 and $1.9 million from the increase in landing and passenger fees which the agency implemented beginning March 1, 2000. CPA suspended the implementation of the new schedule of airport charges for more than eight months following pressures from the 11th CNMI Legislature which pledged government subsidy to the agency. Two United States-based bond underwriters commissioned by the Ports Authority suggested that CPA raise its rates by 30 percent in fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2002, as well as reduce its personnel costs by 15 percent in FY2000 and FY2001 to mitigate the negative financial impact of the garment industry pullout. CPA has been urged to increase its current $0.85 landing fee per thousand pounds at the airport to $1.40 for signatory airlines.

House resolution wants NMI to seek CDBG funding

The House of Representatives yesterday set the motion for the government to avail close to $1.4 million in federal funding for housing loans, community development and other infrastructure needs in the CNMI. A joint resolution was adopted at the session authorizing Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to apply for the financial aid under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). The application outlining CNMI's action plan on the program for this year will be submitted before the deadline on June 1 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

March 28, 2001

Gov't cuts fees for small aircraft

In light of the persistently slow rally of business on the islands, the finance department has recommended the reduction by 50 percent of customs, immigration and quarantine fees imposed on small aircraft operating at all CNMI airports. Finance Secretary Lucy Dlg. Nielsen said the move would help maintain a positive relationship between the Commonwealth government and airline companies servicing the Northern Marianas. Ms. Nielsen said current CIQ charges are a financial hardship to operators of smaller aircraft, adding that the immediate repeal of a provision in the Customs Regulations is a move to alleviate the carriers' financial woes. She pointed out that by amending the regulation, the Commonwealth Ports Authority will play a vital role in expanding the tourism base and increase the number of visitors to the Commonwealth.

DPH seeks more funding for clinic expansion work

Contractor and financial problems continue to block prompt completion of the proposed expansion of the Rota Health Center, jeopardizing efforts by the Department of the Public Health to upgrade its facilities and health services. To resolve the problem, Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez disclosed plans to meet with Rota legislative leaders and local heads to identify possible sources of funds. Last week, key officials of the public health led by Mr. Villagomez made a quarter visit at the Rota clinic to assess staffing and management operations. The secretary said efforts have been beefed up to ensure that Rota residents get the needed medical treatments and health services without being referred to Saipan.

March 28, 2005

DPS pushes for increased Compact funding

Department of Public Safety commissioner Santiago Tudela said yesterday that the federal government should increase the CNMI's share in Compact-Impact funds to help the department meet the funding requirement to address its manpower shortage. Tudela said he aired this view in a meeting last week among the CNMI government's Cabinet members and visiting U.S. Senate staffers, including former Office of Insular Affairs director Allen Stayman. Tudela told the Senate staffers that some 21 DPS personnel have been deployed to Iraq as Army reservists on Aug. 16 last year. The DPS has not hired any new police officer since then, except for former boating safety officer Tony Diaz, who joined the department's patrol section last February. The manpower shortage compels those assigned with the traffic section to work on 12-hour shifts. David said patrol officers work in three shifts.

Govt cites improved recycling

The Marpi sanitary landfill is not filling up as fast as previously projected due to an improved recycling program on island, said Solid Waste Management program director Steve Hiney. He said the first of the two existing landfill cells is only 40 percent filled. The other one is empty. Hiney cited that almost 90 percent of garment waste is being recycled. Authorities have also designed ways to recover green waste, plastics, heavy metals, and aluminum cans. The CNMI government opened the Marpi landfill in February 2003 after over 15 years of struggle to close the island's Puerto Rico dumpsite.

Toyota Atkins Kroll donates '20 Corolla

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Toyota Atkins Kroll last weekend sponsored a hole-in-one prize for an annual golf tournament fundraiser organized by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Toyoto AK, led by general manager Clark Boswell, and sales and marketing manager, Jeffrey Borja, last weekend announced that they are sponsoring hole No. 7 of the Laolao Bay Resort & Golf and donating a 2020 Toyota Corolla as a hole-in-one prize.

"The model just launched in February 2019," said Boswell, adding that the specific model is manufactured in Japan instead of North America.

Boswell further noted that the company is looking to continue its tradition of supporting the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which raises funds through its annual golf tournament.

"We are proud to sponsor the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, we have been doing this for years and as one of the leading groups in the business community on Saipan, we are happy to support the Chamber," Boswell told *Saipan Tribune*.

Borja, who arrived fresh from Guam, noted that Toyota AK also seeks to support the upcoming generation through the Chamber's Saipan Young Professionals, which is an organization within the Chamber that is comprised of a group of young professionals.

"That aspect of the Chamber is near and dear to me because I used to be a member of it before I aged out [in Guam]," he said.

Toyota AK is one of the many sponsors of the annual golf tournament that will support the Chamber's operations and programs.

"Proceeds of the event are instrumental in supporting all of the Chamber's current and future programs. Initiatives such as our scholarship program and professional development trainings as well as future initiatives around entrepreneurship and workforce development are integral to sustaining the private sector," a statement from the Chamber noted.

Showtime for the golf tournament starts at 6am with a shotgun start at 7am. The registration fee is $130 per person, and Chamber members would enjoy a discounted fee of $120 per member.

The tournament is followed by a banquet and raffle after the closing of the tournament.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Toyota Atkins Kroll marketing manager Jeffrey Borja, left, poses with Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Maxine Laszlo, second left, and Atkins Kroll general manager Clark Boswell, third right, next to a 2020 Toyota Corolla.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DFEMS-073
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2019 TIME: 9:30 A.M

"20 FIREFIGHTING SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ NO.: RFQ19-BECQ/DCRM-069
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"A&E SERVICE FOR THE JEFFREY'S BEACH BOARDWALK PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

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Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Who helped Russia undermine the election? We did.

What does Robert Mueller mean when he says that President Trump did not commit a crime, but is not exonerated either? Is Attorney General William Barr overstepping by taking possible obstruction of justice charges off the table for Trump? These and other questions argue for making the Mueller report public. But there is another argument that overrides all others: This can't happen again.

Of course it would be a disaster beyond measure if the president of our country were found guilty of colluding with a hostile foreign government in order to undermine our political system and disrupt democracy. Fortunately for us — as well as for Trump — Robert Mueller's report released Friday to the attorney general did not find evidence that Trump or his campaign worked with Russia to undermine the presidential election.

But we're still left with the fact that Russia did, in fact, undermine our system. We're left with the fact that a hostile government targeted a candidate it didn't like and undermined that candidate's campaign, and did it to ensure that a candidate it prefer was elected president.

We're glad the president didn't have a direct hand in that. Maybe now we can stop obsessing about him and face a truth that might be even harder to face: that we all had a hand in the disruption of our system. The fact is that Russia was able to compromise voters through dirty tricks, hacked e-mails, social media, and disinformation points out our own weakness as a country: We're too gullible, and we don't check facts, and we would rather share a meme than debate our differences.

We would never go as far as saying we deserved Russia's manipulation of our election — because we didn't deserve it — but it's a bitter truth that our gullibility means we all had a hand in Russia's success. It's not a relief to learn how easy it was to disrupt democracy. We need to be more skeptical, informed, and less enchanted with creating a circus to distract us from more important things — like working harder to ensure the integrity of our elections.

That's one of the strongest arguments for the report to be made public, not so much for confirming Trump's lack of involvement, but for laying bare Russia's tactics and strategies so we can use it as a blueprint to restore confidence in our electoral system.

Robert Mueller spent two years, called 500 witnesses, issued 2,800 subpoenas and executed 500 search warrants. It cost upward of $25 million (according to PolitiFact, more than $12 million each in direct and indirect costs). We paid for it. We deserve to read it.

The president and his campaign didn't collude with Russia. But Trump is not blameless from other misdoings: his obvious and public delight in Russia's efforts on his behalf, or the fact that six of his associates have been charged with crimes, or his insistence that this effort was a politically motivated witch hunt.

The fact is, the information contained in the report is as important to democracy as the Constitution. It belongs to us.

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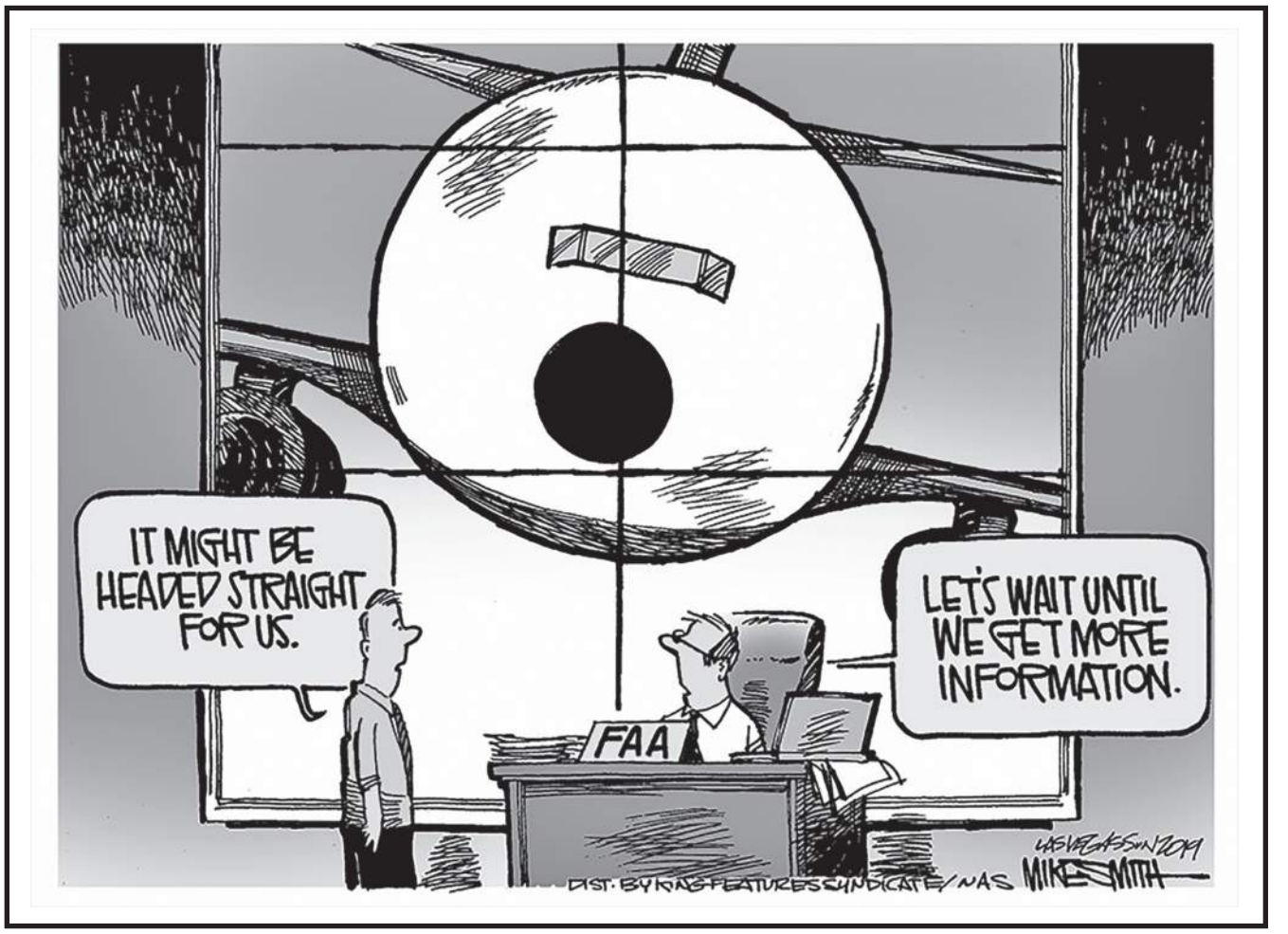
IT MIGHT BE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR US.
LET'S WAIT UNTIL WE GET MORE INFORMATION.
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The Trump approach to healthcare: Break it and figure out the rest later

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times

While the frenzy in Washington, D.C., continued over Attorney General William P. Barr's summary of special council Robert S. Mueller III's findings — the calls for "reckoning" and "payback," the new, dueling probes pushed by House Democrats and Senate Republicans — the Trump administration quietly did something to remind us why Democrats are so eager to get him out of office.

In a letter to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, three Justice Department lawyers said the administration would not try to overturn a bizarre (my word, not theirs) lower court ruling last year that declared the entire Affordable Care Act unconstitutional. Instead, they wrote, "the Department of Justice has determined that the district court's judgment should be affirmed" — in its entirety.

Although it's part of the DOJ's job description to defend duly enacted federal laws, it's not unheard of for a new administration not to go to bat for a law championed by a previous one. See, e.g., the Obama administration's approach to the Defense of Marriage Act, which it initially defended and then opposed in court.

And Trump has opposed the ACA since he took office, so it's unsurprising that the Justice Department would embrace a district court judge's ruling that declared the law unconstitutional, regardless of how wacky the legal reasoning was. And wacky is the word for District Judge Reed O'Connor's ruling, which held that Congress invalidated the entire ACA by removing a single piece — the financial penalty for adult Americans who fail to carry health insurance — as part of the 2017 GOP tax bill.

But here's the thing that drives Democrats nuts. Most presidents push Congress or use their executive power to bring changes to policies they think aren't working. Trump just tries to break things, assuming that it will spur action and give him more negotiating leverage.

O'Connor's ruling, which is on hold pending the appeal, would dramatically disrupt how tens of millions of Americans obtain healthcare. By the stroke of a pen, it would eliminate the Medicaid eligibility of about 15 million low-income Americans who signed up courtesy of the ACA. It would also throw into turmoil the insurance market that serves roughly 20 million people not covered by an employer's health insurance plan, eliminating the federal premium subsidies and most of the state exchanges where people shopped for coverage. Beyond that, it would end a host of efforts launched by the ACA to improve quality and cut costs in Medicare and the broader healthcare system.

That's the policy equivalent of sinking a cruise ship before the passengers have the chance to get on lifeboats. It's why Congress never went through with the GOP's half-baked repeal-and-replace proposals for the ACA — the collateral damage would have been too great.

Yet on issue after issue, whether it be the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program or the North American Free Trade Agreement or trade with China or the Israel-Palestinian conflict or Iran's nuclear ambitions and on and on, Trump's modus operandi has been to flail away at policies he doesn't like even though he may have no replacement ready. The harms caused in the aftermath — to "Dreamers" trapped in jobless limbo, say, or farmers stuck with soybean harvests they can't sell — are just the cost of doing business.

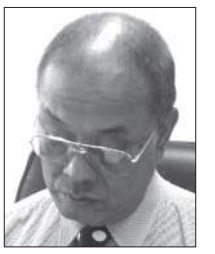
I understand the logic here. It's extremely hard to get anything through a polarized and risk-averse Congress. Lawmakers are like high school students, they have trouble accomplishing anything without a deadline. And in the case of the ACA, there's no question that the way the law spread the cost of insuring older, sicker people led some younger, healthier Americans to be hit with sharp premium increases. Democrats were late to acknowledge that problem.

Yet contrast Trump's let-the-chips-fall-where-they-may approach with the steps House Democrats are expected to propose today to shore up the ACA and reduce premiums. One of the two sides seems to care about the consequences of its policy positions.

It's worth remembering that the DOJ had initially urged O'Connor to throw out just some of the law's insurance reforms, such as the protections for people with preexisting conditions. That was harsh enough, though, and Democrats used the preexisting-condition issue to beat Republicans like a drum in the 2018 congressional campaigns. If I were a Republican member of Congress running for re-election in 2020, I would hope that the 5th Circuit overturns O'Connor's ruling and does it soon, before the president can give Democrats any more ammunition.

Suetdun Popble!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Katma i pueñge. Kuestion: haf` na mampus silensiu?

Gaige este gi tautau siha ni pumadedese sapet pot suetdun popble gi halum didog na tiempun ha`ilas! Ti nahuñg salape` gi monedan familia!

Man-chatsaga! Todu mañgahulu` presiun nesessidat siha fuera de suetdu!

Kase 15-mit na tautau-ta man-hinehegsi baratu na suetdun popble. Pinadese ni sumasa`pet kanaha` todu familia guine pa`gu!

Haf` satbasioña este na problema? Na ti este mas presisu gi ridondun linala` familia? Makomprende este ni man-sabiun i hegsu` I Deni`?

Na ti primera obligasion miyu i para in` adelanta kualidat linala` tautau-ta siha ni in` represesenta? Guaha disiente na planu pot este na asuntun linahyan? Prontu mohon na satbasion?

Lokue`, ha estotba siñienteg-hu pot kontodu felisitasion tautau-ta chagu` `nai madispacha gi hilu` inalula. Kau sapet na pinadesen familia umafuetsas mahlau na sentimentun felisitasion?

Sin ditension debi i man-ma`gas umabisita asuntun suetdu ensegidas. Gaige este na chinatsaga gi halum guma` familia! Na ti obligasion miyu para in` adelanta kualidat linala` i tautau-ta siha gi enteru iya Marianas?

Dispues: Ilegña amiguhu gi bisinu na bula man-nuebu siha na kareta gi chalan. Era malagnus salape` FEMA. Ha umentaye na siempre una`lu tatte gi otdinariu na modun linala` `nai masoda` na taya` kechap gi kusina! (Chaleg).

Trabiha silensiu i tanu`. Adahe para u katma gi ti otdinariu na finapus ha`ane. Lau katma yan silensiu! Hu supone na patte gi tinilaikan klima gi hihot na tanu` maneñgheñg tat kumu Japon.

Muñga mana maput: pinadesen baratun suetdu! Estague` `nai anog didog na pinadese ni megai man-hinegsi na tiempu. Chatsaga i hinanau familia, diariu! Kanaha` 15-mit na empleau gumagana tagpapa` na suetdun popble! Haf` ti u silensiu i tanu`!

Guaha mohon kampu para uma-adelanta este na sapet? Haf` planun miyu? Esplika publikamenti para benefisiun todu!

Hawaii: Famosu na estadu iya Hawaii para manadan bisita siha ginen enteru elmundu kada sakan. Lau guine gi alacha matutuhun un` estudiu ginen i University of Hawaii ha kuestiona kau hafa kontribusioña industrian bisita gi linala` i tautau ni mañasaga guihe?

Otru kuestion: kau magahet na guaha kontribusion i industria gi ekonomian iya Hawaii. I puntu pot kualidat linala` tautau niha! Tai bali i industria yangin mas sapet na aminasu guaha gi tautau ke benefisiu.

Estague` na mapetsige hinisgan kontribusion i industria gi kualidat linala` tautau niha giya Hawaii. Yangin setbisiu para i bisita haf` na benefisiu para i man-mañeñetbi na tautau tanu`?

Kustumbre: Gi fina` kanta mamaisen un` prohimu haf` na man-malefa hit ni "kustumbren sune?" Komprendiyun haf` ha kekesañgan lau lache asuntoña. Taya` "kustumbren" sune gi tradision natibu soluke patte gi sentadata!

Guaha tradision gualu` yan tasi deste antigu na tiempu! Na dinanche i asuntu para benefisiun todu. Ketuñgu` haf` i propiu palabran tradision yan kuttura.

Dispues, megai tinilaika gi modun linala` natibu. Pa`gu, debi u falag i moseria para nesessidat familia. Sin este kase todu dia manliliku` hit man-esuette `ansopblan pusuelun kafe.

Salape` ha aliligau mina` man-espiha che`cho`ña. Maliñgu, kulan minachum atdau modun linala` gualu` yan tasi guine. Enfin, mauleg sa` memegaiña man-felis gi offisiun niha.

**Añglu`:** Pot primet biahe huli`e na seriosu añglu` i tanu` `nai i tres troñkun lemon gi tatten guma` sige mamoduñg hagun niha tinatiye ni lamas ramas siha. Dispues de 30 añus pa`gu hulili`e taiguine inañglo`ña i tanu`.

Kau señat este na siña ha` dispues mangai problema hit seriosu na taya` hanum? Mauleg na in`adahe usun hanum! Muñga mabatga hamyu` na u guaguaha` hanum.

Tiempun maipe pa`gu ya ni unu tumuñgu` kuantus tiempu este na klima. Ta`lu kuattru mesis sa` man-asoda` hit gi sadog kabayu yan galon hanum para tafan mañuhu usuta.

Kilisyanu: Umasoda`yu` yan un` amiguhu ni brabu yan makalamya. Dispues de che`chu` ha dopblague` gi gualu` umasiste pinegsai yan tinanum antes de minachum atdau. Mauleg tinanomña difirientes klasen choda, sune, kamute, mendioka, mai`es, gulusina, golai yan kalamasa.

Guaha lokue` `nai hu li`e man-yotte talaya gi kantun unai Oleai yan Chalan Laulau. Animu! Maseha kanaha` tai deskansu magof hinanauña i amiguhu diariu. Magahet na makreansa mauleg ni mañainaña. Sattun lokue` gi misan Dameñgo yan familiaña. Namagof!

`Nai mañgone` buyadan tiau yan satmonitiyun hana` fañagueyu`. Paire sa` guaha kelaguen-hu na pueñge. Man-uñgag ñaihon ham `nai sige grasiosu siha na konbetsasion. Ai na chaka chaleg!

Gi uttimun ha`ane hu agradesi animun amiguhu kumu mauleg na padre de familia. Un` prohimu ni kumomprende obligasioña. Todu i tiempu grasiosu konbetsasion mame `nai in` tampa asuntota siha.

Maseha sattun gi obligasioña gai tiempu man-ayuda maseha haye na prohimu munesessita ayudu. Mauleg na kilisyanu!

Fairness after the flood

By CHRISHELLE PALAY
Tribune News Service

Chrishelle Palay is the director of the Houston Organizing Movement for Equity (HOME) Coalition, created in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. This column was written for the Progressive Media Project, affiliated with The Progressive magazine, and distributed by the Tribune News Service.

As the floodwaters slowly recede, people throughout the upper Midwest are struggling to salvage their homes, their farms, and their lives. Some will readily bounce back. But others — including those who are the most vulnerable — may enter a downward spiral from which they can't recover.

Floods and other natural disasters are sometimes seen as great levelers, affecting rich and poor alike. The reality is different. New research published by the American Sociological Association shows that disasters — and the federal aid that follows — leave affluent, white communities better off, while their poor neighbors of color slip deeper into poverty. That has certainly been our experience in Houston, where — a year and a half after Hurricane Harvey — many of my low-income neighbors are still waiting for help.

In many low-income communities, what are called natural disasters are layered upon long-standing harms and inequities. Our communities are reeling from disinvestment, redlining, industrial decline and the lack of affordable housing. Floods and other disasters can exacerbate those problems — and inequities in federal disaster assistance can make matters worse.

In Miami-Dade County, Florida, Hurricane Irma damaged four times as many rental units as homeowner-occupied units. But this disparity was not reflected in federal disaster assistance; homeowners in one accounting received three times as much assistance as renters. Because communities of color are overrepresented among renters, this disparity worsens racial inequity in recovery.

In Puerto Rico, many low-income residents who lost their homes in Hurricanes Irma and Maria were denied assistance. Many live in homes that were built by hand and passed down through generations; nearly half lack clear titles to their properties. But FEMA required homeowners to present formal titles to access emergency funds. So, of the 1.1 million households who requested help from FEMA, 58 percent were denied.

And, from New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward to the Jersey Shore, low-income communities are displaced by disaster, while their wealthier counterparts are allowed to rebuild.

It doesn't have to be this way. After Harvey, my nonprofit group joined with our community and partners to develop a framework of four basic rights that are key to equitable recovery:

■ The right to stay and return home to neighborhoods that have adequate storm protection and other essential public infrastructure — especially in neighborhoods that have experienced longstanding public and private disinvestment. Renters, including those in subsidized housing, must have a right to stay in safe and accessible housing.

■ The right to choose whether and where they want to relocate. Survivors must be informed of all housing opportunities and options available to them.

■ The right to equal treatment.

■ Every neighborhood — regardless of the race, ethnicity, economic status, or disability of its residents — must be provided quality, equal levels of flood protection and equal access to essential public infrastructure.

■ The right to have a say.

■ We must ensure that people in forgotten communities are included and their feedback is seriously considered. Survivors must help design the recovery, know where they are in the process, and be empowered to speak and be heard, in their own language.

Our hearts go out to those in the Midwest who have joined the ever-growing ranks of disaster survivors. As they have learned, disasters aren't fair. But federal disaster assistance — paid for by our tax dollars — should be.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The many benefits of dance and movement classes

Dance and movement have great benefits for people with or without disabilities. Not only is it a great fun way to get fit and exercise, it helps us grow our social skills and gross motor skills. It encourages creativity and imagination all while improving a person's self-esteem and confidence. Movement is a universal language that is expressed through our bodies and is a way to communicate our emotions and feelings.

Personally, I use it as a way to escape the stresses of my everyday life. An escape from my worries even if it is just for a few hours. It taught me about discipline, creativity, and a way to express myself and feelings all while making lifelong friendships in a positive and safe environment.

For individuals with a disability such as autism, orthopedic impairment, and learning disability to name a few, dance can play a huge part in helping them succeed in life, boost their confidence, social and communication skills, and improve self-esteem and attentiveness. This art form is all about practice, learning the steps, and repeating them over and over. It helps promote memorization and is very routine and structured. This also helps individuals with an orthopedic impairment and mobility limitations by helping to strengthen their muscles, having them move parts of the body with which they are most comfortable, and expressing themselves in ways that may be more comfortable for some. Using your body and movement to express how you are feeling and conveying a character or mood through music and dance can be very beneficial for individuals with anxiety or PTSD and individuals who are shy and more reserved.

According to Mary Ellen Hunt, a former dancer, now a teacher, writes about dance and the arts for the San Francisco Chronicle. "If an autistic student takes your class, you have the chance to make a huge impact in the child's development. There is evidence that movement classes are enormously beneficial to ASD children, helping develop coordination and balance, speech, self-discipline and social skills. But determining if you can handle this student will depend on the child's behavior patterns."

Christina Devereaux Ph.D., BC-DMT writes "It is important to note that the intention is to first understand the person with autism, to join with them, and then to help them modify their communication in a way so that repetitive restrictive behaviors can become channeled, the nervous system can settle, and social engagement can begin. This is dance/movement therapy's starting point."

For more information about where you can get assistance if you or someone you know has a disability, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or online at www.nmpasi.org or to learn about the benefits of dance and movement classes, please check out these websites:

■ https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/meaning-in-motion/201404/dancemovement-therapy-and-autism

■ https://www.dancemagazine.com/dance-autism-2630623836.html?rebelltitem=5#rebelltitem5

■ https://www.dance-teacher.com/autism-in-the-studio-2392357299.html

■ https://www.hubbardstreetdance.com/programs-classes/adaptive-dance-program/the-autism-project-tap/

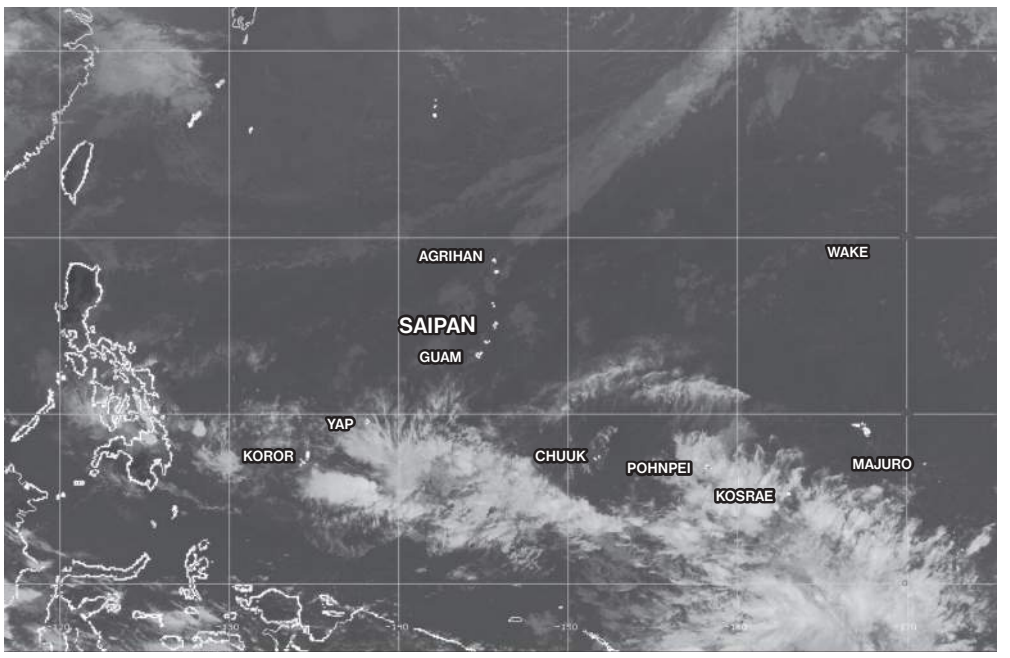
Amber Alberts
NMPASI client advocate

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:01 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows almost no showers in the Marianas waters this morning. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 10 to 13 just off the surface which increase to between 14 and 20 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal 5 to 7 foot combined seas composed of an east trade-wind swell and a north-northwest swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	72° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Hong Kong	Showers	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 67°
London	Sunny	61° / 43°
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	79° / 48°
Miami	Windy	76° / 68°
New York	Partly Cloudy	54° / 46°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	59° / 41°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Rome	Sunny	64° / 39°
Salem	Sunny	70° / 44°
San Francisco	Rain	57° / 47°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 36°
Tokyo	Showers	52° / 45°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	62° / 50°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:31 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
7:38 AM	LOW TIDE	1.21
12:11 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
8:07 PM	LOW TIDE	0.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:23 AM	11:56 PM	-
Friday	1:14 AM	12:47 PM	-
Saturday	2:03 AM	1:37 PM	-
Sunday	2:49 AM	2:27 PM	-
Monday	3:32 AM	3:16 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 22, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:50pm	7:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/193	6:25pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/1596:25pm		11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174 GUM-ROR	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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BRENTWOOD-1.8L 10 CUP NS SS RICE COOKER $27.95

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DAHDOUL-18PC PRINTED BATH SET $17.95

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$22.95

DAHDOUL-2PC SOFA COVER
$35.95

$369.95

PROPEL 15FT TRAMPOLINE WITH ENCLOSURE
$379.95

$149.95
T-FAL 12IN1 PROG ELECTRIC MULTI PRESSURE COOKER

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DEAL OF THE WEEK

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SOFA BED 3 SEAT WITH OTTOMAN BROWN (YA07)

3-STEP LADDER WITH GRIP 42.9" WHITE STEEL
$33.95

NORTHWEST TERRITORY DIRECTORS CHAIR WITH TABLE
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$29.95
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BRENTWOOD 2 SLICE EXTRA WIDE S/S TOASTER
$12.95

$13.95
GEOJUG 400Z CAPACITY

$16.95
BRENTWOOD UPRIGHT POPCORN MAKER

NINJA MASTER PREP FOOD & DRINK BLENDER
$62.95

OSTER 12 SPEED BLENDER
$59.95

CRAFTSMAN 2PC DRILL & IMPACT DRIVER COMBO KIT
$169.95

6PC PATIO SET (4CHAIRS, 1 TABLE & 1 UMBRELLA)
$179.95

THD-GB HIGH EFFICIENCY DUAL FLUSH TOILET
$159.95

DAHDOUL-3PC SHAGGY DADDY BATH SET
$11.95

DAHDOUL EMIRATES 2X3
$6.95

DAHDOUL-BRUSH DOT THROW PILLOW
$4.95

$4.95
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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Swearing in of Rep. Marco T. Peter

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan), center, with some of his colleagues in the 21st CNMI Legislature.

Various members of the community came out to witness the swearing in of Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) last Tuesday at the House chamber of the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) blows a conch shell to honor his Carolinian roots.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) gives his congratulatory and welcome message to their new House colleague Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan). Rep. L.J. Castro (R-Saipan) and minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst, partly hidden, are also in the photo.

Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan), left, listens as Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) gives her congratulatory message.

From left, Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and first lady Diann Torres.

From left, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan).

Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan), second right, with his family—that includes his wife Kina, center, their two daughters Kayli and Mai, and his mom former representative Maria Malua T. Peter, left.

Business

FAA to revamp aircraft construction oversight

The Federal Aviation Administration plans to significantly revamp its oversight of airplane construction this summer after questions were raised about how it manages inspections done by the industry, according to testimony prepared for a Senate subcommittee hearing on Wednesday.

The testimony by Calvin Scovel III, the Transportation Department's inspector general who monitors the FAA and other agencies, said his office has found management weaknesses with a number of the FAA's oversight processes over the years.

The comments come as the agency is under increasing scrutiny for its flight approval of the Boeing 737 Max jet. Two of the jets have crashed in the past six months in Indonesia and Ethiopia with deadly consequences, and investigators are examining the role of flight-control software that Boeing designed to prevent aerodynamic stalls.

FAA oversight and its program to allow manufacturers and airlines to have their own employees do inspections will be examined at Wednesday's hearing by the Senate Commerce Committee's aviation subcommittee.

While the agency has made improvements, it plans by July to develop new evaluation criteria for training and company self-audits, Scovel wrote in his prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press.

"While revamping FAA's oversight process will be an important step, continued management attention will be key to ensure the agency identifies and monitors the highest-risk areas of aircraft certification," Scovel wrote.

Also in prepared testimony, the acting FAA head defended his agency's certification of the 737 Max and its initial resistance to ground the planes until all other major aviation regulators around the world had done so.

Daniel Elwell, also will say Wednesday that Boeing submitted proposed changes in key flight-control software to its 737 Max jetliner in January. He says the FAA is still reviewing the aircraft manufacturer's plans for the software update and more pilot training. He calls FAA's review "an agency priority."

Elwell's testimony, first reported by the Seattle Times, could renew questions over the FAA's response to safety concerns about the Max aircraft after the deadly Oct. 29 crash in Indonesia and another in Ethiopia on March 10, nearly seven weeks after Elwell says Boeing submitted its proposed changes.

FAA spokesman Gregory Martin said Tuesday that the Boeing submission in January was preliminary, not final. He said the FAA has not received Boeing's completed software improvements.

Boeing is updating software designed to protect against aerodynamic stalls, in which planes can lose lift from the wings and fall from the sky if the nose points too high. A company official provided more details on work to update the flight-control software, which was not part of previous 737 models.

Software designers considered "a broad range" of pilot skills "to ensure that normal airmanship skills are sufficient to control the airplane," said the official, who spoke anonymously because the changes have not been made public.

Investigators in Ethiopia expect to issue a preliminary report this week on a plane crash that killed 157 people. But a final determination of the cause of the accident may take months.

Boeing said the changes will include protection against faulty readings by sensors. Erroneous measurements are suspected of triggering flight problems on the Lion Air jet. Regulators say the Ethiopian Airlines Max jet followed a similar flight path, including erratic climbs and descents before crashing minutes after takeoff, and those similarities were an important part of their decision to ground the roughly 370 Max 8 planes around the world.

Apple wins 1, loses 1 in battle over iPhone technology

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— A mind-bending battle over some of the technology used in iPhones became even more muddled Tuesday when a federal trade agency handed separate victories to the embittered foes, Apple and Qualcomm.

On Tuesday, the U.S. International Trade Commission issued two decisions within a few hours of each other.

In one, Administrative Law Judge MaryJoan McNamara recommended blocking some iPhones from being imported into the U.S. after concluding Apple's best-selling device infringed on technology owned by mobile chip maker Qualcomm.

Then the full commission weighed in another case brought by Qualcomm, and overturned a ruling issued last September by another judge, Thomas Pender. Although Pender had concluded Apple's iPhones had violated another patent owned by Qualcomm, the ITC decided instead that Qualcomm's claim was invalid.

The full commission still has to review McNamara's decision, too. If it sides with McNamara, it's unclear whether it will also impose an import ban and, if so, which iPhone models would be affected.

The tangled developments are just the latest twist in a high-stakes dispute between Qualcomm and Apple over the rights to some of the technology that connects iPhones to the internet.

Qualcomm applauded McNamara's findings, while Apple cheered the commission for invalidating the other patent claim.

The battle between Qualcomm and Apple broke out more than two years ago after the U.S. Federal Trade Commission sued Qualcomm for allegedly using its portfolio of mobile technology patents to gouge smartphone makers and stifle competition in the chip market. A federal court judge in San Jose, California, is still mulling a decision in that case, two months after presiding over a trial.

Shortly after the FTC filed its case in 2017, Apple pounced with its own lawsuit accusing Qualcomm of trying to wring licensing fees for technology that it didn't really invent.

Apple subsequently stopped paying royalties to Qualcomm, further poisoning the two companies' relationship.

Qualcomm prevailed in another round of skirmishing when a federal court jury in San Diego decided Apple should pay $31 million in damages for making several different types of iPhones that violated Qualcomm patents. The bout is scheduled to resume April 15 at yet another federal court trial in San Diego.

Nation

AS HOUSE VETO OVERRIDE FAILS

Trump border emergency survives

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Democratic-led House failed Tuesday to override President Donald Trump's first veto, salvaging his effort to steer billions of extra dollars to erecting border barriers and delivering a victory to the White House in a constitutional and political clash that's raged for months.

Lawmakers voted 248-181 to overturn Trump's veto, but that fell 38 votes shy of the required two-thirds margin. Just days after Attorney General William Barr announced that special counsel Robert Mueller had found Trump didn't scheme with Russia to help his 2016 election, Tuesday's vote bolstered Trump's drive to build a wall along the boundary with Mexico, a hallmark of his 2016 presidential campaign and a priority of his presidency.

"Thank you to the House Republicans for sticking together and the BIG WIN today on the Border," Trump tweeted. "Today's vote simply reaffirms Congressional Democrats are the party of Open Borders, Drugs and Crime!"

While clearly a defeat for Democrats, the vote afforded them a chance to reemphasize policy differences with Trump and change the subject from collusion allegations that have lost political clout. Underscoring that, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi placed her name atop a House Democratic fundraising email referencing the failed veto override, writing, "I know grassroots Democrats won't let Trump's enablers get away with this."

Just 14 Republicans joined all voting Democrats in Tuesday's futile effort to void Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the Southwest border.

By invoking that power, Trump has said he will shift $3.6 billion from military construction to erecting barriers along that boundary. Congress has voted to provide less than $1.4 billion for border barriers, leaving Democrats and some Republicans fuming that Trump is abusing his powers by ignoring Congress' constitutional control over spending.

Despite his veto remaining intact, Trump may not be able to spend the money for barriers quickly because of lawsuits by Democratic state attorneys general and others that could take years to resolve.

Trump insisted during his campaign that Mexico, not taxpayers, would pay for the wall. To keep the issue alive into the 2020 campaign season, House Democrats may force fresh votes on the emergency declaration in six months, as the law allows.

Trump opposes further disaster aid for battered Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump's opposition to further disaster aid for hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico hardened on Tuesday as he told GOP allies at a Capitol Hill meeting that the U.S. island territory has gotten too much rebuilding money compared with mainland states like Florida and Texas.

Trump's ardent opposition to additional Puerto Rico funding sets up a showdown with House Democrats, who insist that a $13 billion to $14 billion disaster aid package that's a top priority for southern Republicans won't advance without further aid for the island.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said Trump told Republicans at a closed-door luncheon on Tuesday that aid for Puerto Rico "is way out of proportion to what Texas and Florida and others have gotten."

Trump does support $600 million to deal with a food stamp shortfall in Puerto Rico that has already meant slashed benefits, Rubio said, but opposes more generous terms for delivery of disaster aid dollars and funding to rebuild antiquated water systems and make them more resilient to future storms.

The disaster aid package cleared a procedural hurdle by a 90-10 vote and is expected to pass the Senate as early as late this week, which would set up talks with the Democratic-controlled House. House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., said the House will insist on further aid for Puerto Rico or the disaster aid measure won't clear Congress.

"Nearly 3,000 American lives were lost in the historic storms that devastated Puerto Rico and destroyed its infrastructure, and the island is still struggling to recover," Lowey said in a joint statement with Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

The measure has wide support from both Democrats and Republicans and is ardently backed by Trump loyalists such as David Perdue, R-Ga., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C., whose states were slammed by hurricanes last fall. The measure has been expanded so that Midwestern states such as Iowa and Nebraska that are currently suffering from flooding are eligible for disaster help.

"Just at the time when harvesting was starting, Hurricane Michael hit and crops were completely destroyed across most of our state," Perdue said.

The House passed a companion $14.2 billion version of the legislation in January, but it got tangled up in the politics of the partial government shutdown and Trump's demands for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The measure is especially sought by lawmakers from Southern states like Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, which were hit by hurricanes Michael and Florence last year. There's money to respond to an earthquake in Alaska, wildfires in California and floods in South Carolina and for the ongoing recovery effort in Puerto Rico, which was devastated by back-to-back hurricanes in 2017.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai anti-military parties say they have seats to form govt

BANGKOK (AP)—Seven Thai political parties led by one ousted from power in a military coup say they believe they have won enough seats to form the next government. The announcement came amid concerns about potential irregularities in Sunday's vote, and before a full preliminary vote count has even been released. Official results aren't due until May. The leader of the Pheu Thai party, which headed the government toppled in a 2014 coup, and the leaders of five other parties said Wednesday that they believed they had won more than 250 seats in the 500-seat lower house. They said another smaller had also agreed to join their potential government.

The ruling junta-backed Palang Pracharath party has also said it should form the government after appearing to have won the most votes.

China's Xi, European leaders form trade policy partnership

PARIS (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Monday to work with European leaders to seek fairer international trade rules and to address the world's economic and security challenges, establishing "a trust-based partnership" that seemed like a rebuke to Donald Trump's protectionist policies. Xi, who is on a state visit to France, met in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to discuss relations between China and Europe. Macron acknowledged "existing rivalries" between the European Union and China over economic policies, but the four said in a joint statement after the meeting they committed to seeking "a trust-based partnership." "I think our common goal is to make sure the response to these tensions doesn't cause fractures in the international commercial order, fresh trade conflicts or isolationist policies," Macron said in the statement. a joint statement following the meeting. Xi said reformed governance rules should address worldwide challenges like climate change, cybersecurity and mass migration.

Pakistan places 2 Hindu girls in protection after conversion

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court placed two teenage sisters from the minority Hindu community in a government shelter on Tuesday as authorities launched an investigation into whether the girls were abducted and forced to convert and marry two Muslim men. The case of the sisters from the southern Sindh province has seen much traction in local media over the past days, going to the heart of two controversial issues in this predominantly Muslim nation: marriage of underage girls and forced conversions to Islam. While marriage under the age of 18 is illegal in Pakistan, the law is often ignored. There is no legislation banning forced conversions. The Islamabad High Court issued the protection order for the girls on Tuesday, saying it acted on a petition from the two. It also placed their husbands under protection but in a separate shelter, as they purportedly fear they could be attacked by the girls' parents.

Spain: FBI offered data stolen in North Korean Embassy raid

MADRID (AP)—Spain has issued at least two international arrest warrants for members of a self-proclaimed human rights group who allegedly led a mysterious raid at the North Korean Embassy in Madrid last month and offered the FBI stolen data from the break-in. A National Court judge who lifted a secrecy order in the case Tuesday said an investigation of the Feb. 22 attack uncovered evidence that "a criminal organization" shackled and gagged embassy staff members before escaping with computers, hard drives and documents. The intruders also urged North Korea's only accredited diplomat in Spain, business envoy So Yun Sok, to defect, Judge Jose de la Mata said in a written report on the Spanish investigation. So refused to do so and was gagged, according to the report. The assailants identified themselves as "members of an association or movement of human rights for the liberation of North Korea." That group is the Cheollima Civil Defense, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the incident. The shadowy activists have the self-declared mission of helping defectors from North Korea.

Australian party accused of asking US gun lobby for money

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister on Tuesday accused an influential minor political party of trying to "sell Australia's gun laws to the highest bidders" by asking the U.S. gun lobby for donations. Prime Minister Scott Morrison was responding to an Al Jazeera documentary that reported One Nation party officials Steve Dickson and James Ashby flew to the United States for meetings with pro-gun interests including the National Rifle Association and political donors Koch Industries in September last year seeking money to undermine Australian gun laws. Dickson and Ashby later told reporters that they had not secured any U.S. money. They also said they had been quoted by Al Jazeera out of context and often after drinking. The trip took place weeks before the Australian Parliament banned foreign political donations with laws that took effect Jan. 1. Morrison said the revelations were reasons why Australians should not vote for One Nation at general elections due in May.

Duterte asks why critical ex-police officer 'is still alive'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday accused a dismissed police colonel, who had publicly criticized him and his deadly anti-drug campaign, of criminal involvement and said he wanted to know why the former officer "is still alive." In a late-night televised speech, Duterte condemned dismissed Senior Superintendent Eduardo Acierto, who told reporters over the weekend that the president had been repeatedly photographed with two Chinese men involved in drug trafficking. Duterte defended one of the two Chinese men, saying he had accompanied China's premier on a visit to the Philippines and was a businessman who traveled to the country in 1999 to sell Chinese-made cellphones. Acierto, a veteran anti-narcotics officer before his dismissal by an anti-graft agency last year, said he submitted a report to top police officials and Duterte's office about the two Chinese to warn the president of their background. But he said he was never informed if the two were ever investigated. "In my investigation, I discovered that our president ... is often accompanied by two people deeply involved in illegal drugs," Acierto told a news conference late Sunday in Manila, adding that he was later accused by authorities in a criminal complaint of involvement in drug smuggling instead of the Chinese men.

World

Weary Venezuelans adapt to more nationwide power cuts

AP

Pedestrians walk past closed businesses in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelans reacted with despair and resourcefulness on Tuesday as nationwide power cuts closed schools and businesses, paralyzing a nation that was only starting to recover from its worst blackouts earlier this month.

The new outages, which began Monday, forced people to follow now-familiar routines: scour neighborhoods for food in the few shops that were open or seek out the few spots where they could find a signal on their mobile phones and get in touch with family and friends. The collapse of the power grid was yet another setback for a country whose oil reserves made it one of Latin America's wealthiest decades ago.

"Venezuela doesn't stand a chance anymore, there is no life here," said Johnny Vargas, a frustrated restaurant worker who said he wishes he could leave the country. "People can't work anymore; we can't do anything."

In Caracas, lights flickered on and off in various districts, raising hopes and then dashing them as people once again reflected on divergent explanations from the government of President Nicolas Maduro, which alleged sabotage, and the U.S.-backed opposition, which said state corruption and incompetence is to blame.

Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez posted a video of a fireman training a hose on smoking equipment at a power facility, seeking to reinforce his claims that Venezuela is under attack by "terrorists" executing a U.S.-led scheme to sow chaos. Authorities said they had detained six people in connection with the outage, but provided no details outlining the accusations against them.

The U.S. and Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido say allegations of sabotage are an attempt to deflect attention from government failures.

The government's allegations aren't credible in part because it said the military had deployed to protect the entire power grid after the last blackouts, Guaido said.

Jose Aguilar, an expert on the Venezuelan electrical grid, said images of a blaze shared by the government as well as information from engineers on the ground indicate the fire began inside one of three critical transformers near the Guri dam, which provides most of the country's electricity. He attributed the blaze to neglect, saying equipment that facilitates an electrical current's passage was not regularly maintained.

UK govt defiant as Parliament takes control of Brexit

LONDON (AP)—British lawmakers were preparing to blow open the Brexit process and put a host of rejected options back on the table—including keeping the U.K. close to the European Union or even remaining a member—as Prime Minister Theresa May defiantly insisted Tuesday that Parliament should approve her twice-defeated divorce deal instead.

Lawmakers are scheduled to vote Wednesday on multiple flavors of Brexit, after the House of Commons voted to wrest the parliamentary timetable away from May's weakened government and hold votes on alternatives to her rejected withdrawal agreement.

The largely pro-EU legislators behind the unprecedented move hope to find a form of Brexit that can command a majority in Parliament. Votes are due to be held Wednesday on options that could include remaining in the EU's single market and customs union, calling a new membership referendum and canceling Brexit—all ideas that May has repeatedly rejected.

They plan to see which ideas have the most support, and then hold another day of votes next week to try to find agreement on a proposal.

The government, which usually controls the scheduling of votes in Parliament, said the lawmakers' move "upends the balance between our democratic institutions and sets a dangerous, unpredictable precedent for the future."

The votes will not be legally binding, and Health Secretary Matt Hancock told the BBC that the government wouldn't "pre-commit" to accepting the option backed by lawmakers because they may come up with a plan that is impractical. It's also possible lawmakers could support contradictory options, or none at all.

"If the Commons voted for the sun to rise in the west, the government would not be able to implement that," he said.

"The best way through this impasse is the one deal that has been negotiated with the EU that can be delivered quickly now," Hancock said, referring to the prime minister's agreement.

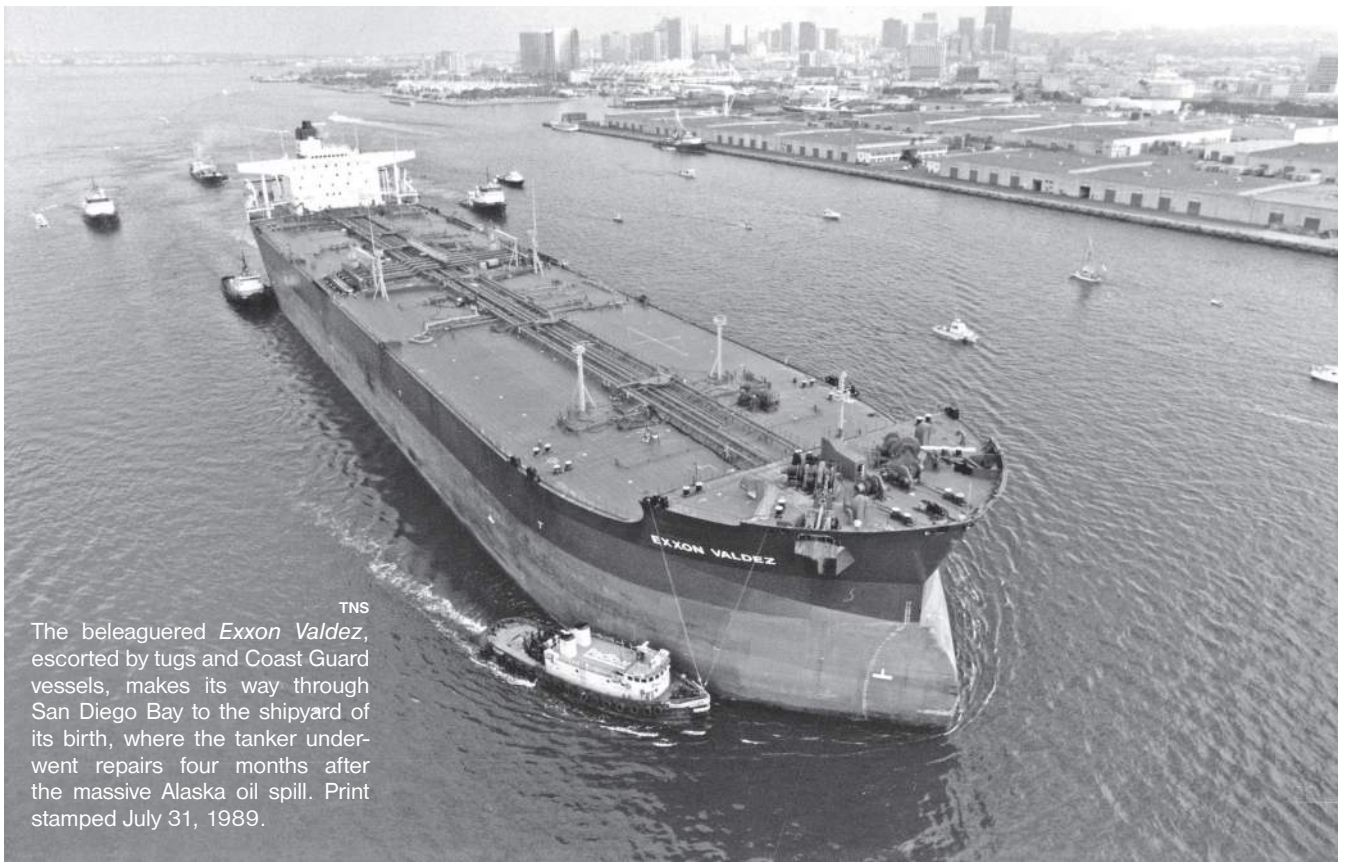
But government officials acknowledged they were no longer in control of Brexit. May's authority was hanging by a thread after 30 members of her Conservative Party defied her instructions and voted late Monday for Parliament to take control of the process. Three government ministers resigned rather than vote with the government.

Almost three years after Britons voted to leave the EU, the date and terms of its departure are up in the air. Last week, the EU granted Britain a delay to the scheduled March 29 exit date, saying that if Parliament approved the proposed divorce deal, the U.K. would leave the EU on May 22. If not, the government has until April 12 to tell the 27 remaining EU countries what it plans to do—leave without a deal, cancel Brexit or propose a radically new path.

Environment

What we're still learning from the *Exxon Valdez* environmental debacle 3 decades later

By HAL BERNTON AND LYNDA V. MAPES
THE SEATTLE TIMES



TNS
The beleaguered *Exxon Valdez*, escorted by tugs and Coast Guard vessels, makes its way through San Diego Bay to the shipyard of its birth, where the tanker underwent repairs four months after the massive Alaska oil spill. Print stamped July 31, 1989.

SEATTLE—Before dawn on March 24, 1989, Dan Lawn stepped off of a small boat and onto the boarding ladder dangling from the side of the grounded *Exxon Valdez* oil tanker. As he made the crossover, he peered down into the water of Prince William Sound, and saw, in the glare of the lights, an ugly spectacle he would never forget.

"There was a 3-foot wave of oil boiling out from under the ship, recalls Lawn, who was then a Valdez-based Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation employee helping to watchdog the oil industry. "You couldn't do anything to stop it."

Lawn was one of the first responders to reach the 986-footlong *Exxon Valdez* after it went off course and punctured its hull on Bligh Reef in a debacle that marked its 30th anniversary Sunday.

Lawn spent a long day on board assessing the damage as oil gushed out. There would be no quick and coordinated spill response to slow the spread. Some 11 million gallons of crude would leak out of the *Exxon Valdez* in what was then the largest oil spill in U.S. history, and one that Lawn had long warned could happen.

Eventually, the oil would foul parts of 1,300 miles of coastline, killing marine life ranging from microscopic planktons to orcas in an accident that would change how the maritime oil transportation industry does business in Alaska, and to a lesser extent, elsewhere in the world.

Today, due to changes to U.S. law and international regulations, all oil tankers traversing the oceans are double-hulled, unlike the more breech-prone single hull of the *Exxon Valdez*. This significantly reduces but does not eliminate the risk of spills, as was demonstrated last year when a double-hulled Iranian tanker exploded and leaked fuel oil after crashing into a freighter in the South China Sea.

In Washington state, the Legislature overhauled oil-spill laws in the years after the *Exxon Valdez*. The state is a regional refining hub, with more than 9.45 billion gallons of petroleum products traveling over water annually. The lawmakers' actions enabled the state Department of Ecology to strengthen prevention and response efforts. All barges carrying oil — as well as oil tankers — must have double bottoms. Another requirement is for a rescue tug to be stationed at Neah Bay to respond to vessels in distress.

The volume of oil that tankers carry through Washington waters could increase dramatically in the years ahead. That's because Canada is poised to approve a tripling of capacity in the TransMountain Pipeline so that bitumen processed from interior oil sands can be exported from British Columbia to global markets.

The threat of massive spills does not only come from tankers. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion that killed 11 workers led to an oil spill of 168 million gallons — dwarfing the amount released by the *Exxon Valdez*.

"If there is a single lesson we have learned, it's that we have to do everything possible to prevent all sorts of scenarios that could lead to a catastrophic spill," said Rick Steiner, a marine conservationist who — at the time of the *Exxon Valdez* spill — was employed by the University of Alaska in the Prince William Sound community of Cordova.

■■■

Before the *Exxon Valdez*, Steiner and Lawn were outspoken critics of the Alaska oil industry's preparation for a potential spill by the tankers that ferried Alaska North Slope crude to refiners in Washington and elsewhere in the United States.

Steiner networked with Prince William Sound fishermen who believed the oil industry had reneged on safety measures, and a disaster was all but inevitable. He pushed, unsuccessfully, for the creation of a citizen oversight council to prod the oil industry to ramp up safety measures. It was founded after the spill.

TNS
Exxon Valdez oil spill workers recover and clean birds soiled by crude oil spilled when the tanker ran aground in Prince William Sound in March 1989.

Meanwhile, Lawn sounded the alarm within the ranks of the state Department of Environmental Conservation. He said the equipment outlined in a response plan by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, an oil industry consortium, was not readily available. Even if it could be accessed, it would fall far short of what was needed.

"The managers were told that, but they didn't want to hear it," said Lawn, who is now retired and divides his time between Kirkland, Washington, and Valdez, a Prince William Sound town where tankers load up with oil that arrives through the trans-Alaska pipeline.

When the accident happened, there was far too little response equipment, and some of it was buried in snow.

For three days, relatively calm weather prevailed. The oil lay thick around the vessel, offering a crucial window of time for action. Then came a storm that scattered the oil, splattering coastlines to the west and south. For four years, crews embarked on a $2.1 billion cleanup that left behind crude that still can be detected on some stretches of the Prince William Sound shoreline.

Up to 10,000 workers were employed in the cleanup, and 1,000 boats. One line of an attack was using hot water on the beaches, but that was stopped when it was found to cook marine life, do more harm than good, according to research cited by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Amid the oil slicks in the water, killer whales surfaced to breathe. Among a resident pod of 36 whales in the area, 14 had disappeared by 1990, according to the Trustee Council.

Over the long term, a transient whale pod that also frequented Prince William Sound fared the worst. Before the spill, the pod had 22 whales. Since then, the pod has declined to seven whales, and there have been no new calves born

Craig Matkin, a researcher for the nonprofit Gulf Watch Alaska, has monitored the whales since 1984. He said the transient whales, which eat seals, were probably the most heavily affected by the spill because they not only breathed the fumes and oil, but also ate oiled prey.

That pod appears doomed. "I give them maybe a 2 percent chance (of survival). It is so sad," Matkin said.

■■■

Three decades after the spill, Alyeska and the oil companies — under pressure from the state of Alaska — have greatly expanded measures to prevent spills. Two escort tugs, for example, accompany every oil laden tanker that motors through Prince William Sound. If needed, they can steer the tanker, counter any unwanted move or take it under tow.

If oil should escape a tanker, Alyeska has more than 40 miles of boom, compared with five in 1989.

Alyeska has 140 skimmers, compared with 13 back then, and the newer models operate much more efficiently, capturing less water.

The capacity to store cleaned up oil with barges or other floating equipment is more than 50 times greater than at the time of the spill.

"The technology has changed immensely," said Andres Morales, Alyeska's director of emergency preparedness. "And there are about 300 people dedicated to preventing and responding to spills."

Still, the Prince Williams Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council, the oversight group set up after the spill, continues to have concerns, which include a continued "response gap." Studies funded through the council found it "still is not possible to effectively clean up an oil spill during the strong winds and waves in which tankers are allowed to transport oil," according to a council statement.

In Washington, a network of contractors trains to respond to spills under response plans that have been approved by state regulators.

The biggest tanker vessels must have redundant operating systems, as well as tugboat escorts once they come in from the ocean to the transboundary waters of the U.S. and Canada in the Salish Sea.

The Legislature is considering ESHB 1578 to extend the protection of an escort tug to smaller vessels carrying oil through the Rosario Strait from Canada to Washington refineries at Cherry Point and Tacoma, including tug-pulled barges.

The bill would also authorize research toward eventually providing the same protection for the Haro Strait, a crucial summer feeding area for the southern residents orcas pod, which are struggling and listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and would be further imperiled by an oil spill.

Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, have practiced drills to try to herd orca whales away from oil in the event of a spill by banging on pipes underwater, making loud noise. Other ideas include hazing the whales with seal bombs — underwater explosives — and helicopters.

Canada's regulations on oil spills are not as strict as those in the U.S., said Dale Jensen, program manager at the Washington State Department of Ecology's office of spills response and preparedness. "We have never felt that Canada has been comparable to our capability on the Washington side," Jensen said.

Conditions put on the TransMountain pipeline expansion project by Canada's National Energy Board to improve spill safety are impressive, Jensen said, "but none of those build outs will happen without the expansion being approved."

"That is sort of disappointing to me; I would rather, regardless of whether approved or not, that they would make the investment to have the highest level of response."

Life & Style

REVIEW

'Dumbo' remake takes flight on its own charms

AP
This image released by Disney shows Nico Parker, left, in a scene from "Dumbo."

The original "Dumbo" was released in the summer of 1941 while Germany was spreading across Europe and war was breaking out in the Pacific. Crafted as a simpler Disney fable after the more extravagant "Fantasia" disappointed at the box office, "Dumbo"—only 64 minutes in length—took flight just as far more chilling creations were taking to the air.

Almost eight decades later, "Dumbo" is alight again in Tim Burton's somber and sincere live-action remake of the animated classic. Burton has refashioned "Dumbo" as a sepia-toned show-business parable tailored to more animal rights-sensitive times.

"Dumbo" is the latest in a circus parade of Disney remakes ("The Lion King" and "Aladdin" are due out later this year) that brings classic characters into seemingly more real worlds with the aid of digital wizardry. None of them will overwhelm anyone by their necessity. Movies, after all, aren't smart phones that require software updates.

That said, Burton's "Dumbo," while inevitably lacking much of the magic of the original, has charms and melancholies of its own, starting, naturally, with the elephant in the room. Of all the CGI make-overs, this Dumbo is the most textured, sweetest and most soulful of creatures. Like the original, he doesn't speak and trips over his floppy ears. Whether cowering at a new height or finding astonishment as he, with a sneeze, is sent airborne, the digitally rendered Dumbo is one precious pachyderm.

The film opens in 1919 on the heels of World War I. Holt Farrier (Colin Farrell, who has grown into the most sensitive and consistent of leading men) returns from war, minus an arm, to his two children, Milly (Nico Parker) and Joe (Finley Hobbins). Though Dumbo endures separation from his mother in Burton's film, the deeper grief in "Dumbo" has been transferred to the humans: The children's mother died while Holt was away at war from an influenza that, as one character says, "hit like a hurricane."

Other things have changed, too. The traveling circus where the Farriers make their home has fallen on hard times. Settling down in Joplin, Missouri, the camp is half its former size. Its owner, Max Medici (Danny DeVito, spectacular), has sold off the horses that Holt rode in his act. Medici sinks all his remaining money into an elephant that he hopes will revive the circus, only to feel swindled when she produces such a droopy-eared offspring, discovered at birth beneath a heap of hay.

Of course, Dumbo's stock rises once he does, too, and Medici's suddenly sensational circus quickly attracts the interest of a much more big-league circus impresario, V.A. Vandevere (Michael Keaton, in a devilishly slick performance), who brings Medici's whole circus to his Coney Island kingdom as a means, we immediately grasp, of luring Dumbo away and dispensing, like a vulture capitalist, with the rest.

It's a kind of reunion for Burton, Keaton and DeVito, who 27 years ago came together in "Batman Returns." The film, starring a bird that couldn't fly in DeVito's Penguin, was like a wicked version of "Dumbo," and similarly full of misfits and so-called freaks. "Dumbo" is naturally lighter terrain for Burton but for the first time in years, the director—so long an expert at the proximity of fantasy and horror—seems at home.

And he steers "Dumbo," from a script by Ehren Kruger, toward a grand corporate satire as the big-city conglomerate tries to co-opt the genuine wonder of Dumbo and Medici's traveling band. Greed and exploitation close in on them as the big-tent gets bigger. That such a story line should come in the biggest big-tent of them all, Disney (whose Disneyland isn't so dissimilar to Vandevere's Dreamland) is either an awkward or happy irony, depending on your level of cynicism.

But it is wondrous when Dumbo takes flight. Burton's camera feels genuinely mesmerized at his elephant's magic act. The filmmaker's recent films have been well outside his best work; it was his woeful "Alice in Wonderful" that kick-started much of the Disney live-action remakes. But when Dumbo soars, it's clear that Burton is a believer, still, in the ability of a beautiful oddity to transcend.

"Dumbo," a Walt Disney Co. release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for peril/action, some thematic elements, and brief mild language. Running time: 112 minutes. Three stars out of four. ***(AP)***

With 'Black Panther' and now 'Us,' Winston Duke is on a roll

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Winston Duke went from relative obscurity to being a household name with his first film and he wasn't even the lead, or second or third performer listed for that matter. That the first film in question was "Black Panther" didn't hurt, but that Duke still managed to stand out as rival Wakandan leader M'Baku amid such star power and spectacle is all the more impressive.

But how do you follow that kind of breakout? For Duke, it meant looking for something completely different. The Tobago-born, U.S.-raised Yale master of fine arts grad had been toiling in television for years to get this sort of chance, and he was not going to allow anyone to pigeonhole him.

"It was absolutely nothing but potential at that point," Duke, 32, said of his raised profile following "Black Panther." ″I was really itching for another job. I wanted something that would test me but not be the same as how I was represented in 'Black Panther.' ...I know the propensity for saying, 'Oh he's this kind of action guy. He's this one thing."

That's when he read the script for "Us," Jordan Peele's follow-up to "Get Out," about a family who encounters murderous doppelgangers, and he knew it was the perfect fit.

"I said, 'Oh my goodness, this is everything,'" Duke said.

It wasn't just that he'd be getting to show a different side of himself as an actor. He'd actually be playing two roles, the all-American every-dad Gabe Wilson and his doppelganger Abraham. Plus, he'd be getting to work with Peele, who was hot off of "Get Out."

"Winston was on this perfect level," Peele said. "He was by no means an unknown actor, but the range that he has was untapped, at least in how we knew him. That presented this opportunity to continue to break his talent on the world in a perfect way."

The challenge of playing two roles got Duke's mind spinning about big themes of privilege, duality, the patriarchy and America.

"Gabe is the perfect product of the American dream. He probably believes that if you work hard enough you can get anything. You can pull yourself up by your bootstraps and work hard. He's that guy," Duke said. "Abraham is the American nightmare."

Duke is a formidable presence on screen and off, clocking in at around 6′5″. That physicality helped inform both the brute intimidation of playing someone like Abraham and the comedic side of Gabe, although Peele said sometimes that came unintentionally.

"There are some laughs where he's being himself and I don't think he realized how funny it was," Peele said. "Best example is when he gets into this little bed in one scene and it lasts about 30 seconds of him just getting ready, he thinks he's going to get some. And the first time he did it I was just cracking up. The bed was creaking and he's way too big for it. I don't think he was trying to be funny, but I'm like, 'Dude, this is the best, do it even longer. Do it more.'"

Gabe Wilson has a certain "sitcom dad" energy to him that Duke said was inspired by characters like Carl Winslow of "Family Matters" and Homer Simpson. He also suspects Peele wrote a bit of himself into the character. But the director and his star have differing opinions on that.

"He claims that a lot was based on me," Peele said. "But I can tell you a lot of it is based on him."

Dutch art sleuth recovers Picasso stolen 20 years ago

AMSTERDAM (AP)—A Dutch art detective said Tuesday that he has recovered a valuable painting by Pablo Picasso 20 years after it was stolen from a wealthy Saudi's yacht in France.

Arthur Brand told The Associated Press that he took possession two weeks ago of the 1938 painting "Buste de Femme" after trailing it for years in Amsterdam.

Brand, a renowned sleuth whose previous finds include a pair of bronze horses sculpted for Adolf Hitler, has since handed over the painting, which he estimates to be worth around 25 million euros ($28 million), to an insurance company. It wasn't immediately clear what would happen to the painting.

Brand said he knew it was the real thing as soon as he got his hands on it and peeled away two plastic bags covering the canvas.

"You know it's a Picasso because there is some magic coming off it," he said.

But that wasn't the only reason he was convinced of its authenticity.

In cases of stolen art, he said, the back of a painting can tell experts more than the front.

He said that since the theft from a yacht moored in the swanky French Riviera port of Antibes, a number of forgeries had been offered to insurers and rejected.

"But a forger never knows how the back looks," Brand said, without specifying what was there. "When I saw the back of the painting, I knew it was the real one."

Brand began his latest hunt after hearing rumors about a Picasso stolen from a boat.

"Finally, I tracked somebody down who had had it in his possession 10 years ago and he told me which one it was," he said. "And then it still took me three years to get near it."

Brand said the painting had circulated in the criminal underworld of the Dutch capital.

"It was used as some kind of money as payment for drug and arm deals," he said.

Eventually a person who had the painting in their possession decided to turn it in and reached out to Brand.

Martin Finkelnberg, head of the Dutch national police's art and antique criminality team, welcomed the recovery. No arrests have been made.

Finkelnberg told Dutch national daily De Volkskrant that having such a painting can be a burden and taking it to Brand is a way out.

"Done. Everybody happy," Finkelnberg said. "The most important thing is that the artwork is back."

Prosecutors dismiss charges against Smollett, draw backlash

CHICAGO (AP)—Infuriating Chicago's mayor and police chief, prosecutors abruptly dropped all charges against Jussie Smollett on Tuesday after the "Empire" actor accused of faking a racist, anti-gay attack on himself agreed to let the city keep his $10,000 in bail. But he maintained his innocence and insisted he was attacked.

Prosecutors said they still believe Smollett concocted the assault. They gave no detailed explanation for why they abandoned the case only five weeks after filing the charges and threatening to pursue Smollett for the cost of a monthlong investigation.

The dismissal drew an immediate backlash. Mayor Rahm Emanuel called the deal "a whitewash of justice" and lashed out at Smollett for dragging the city's reputation "through the mud" in a quest to advance his career. At one point he asked, "Is there no decency in this man?"

Smollett's attorneys said his record was "wiped clean" of the 16 felony counts related to making a false report that he was assaulted by two men. The actor, who also agreed to do community service, insisted that he had "been truthful and consistent on every single level since day one."

AP

Actor Jussie Smollett, center, leaves the Leighton Criminal Courthouse in Chicago after prosecutors dropped all charges against him on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

"I would not be my mother's son if I was capable of one drop of what I was being accused of," he told reporters after a court hearing. He thanked the state of Illinois "for attempting to do what's right."

In a statement, a spokeswoman for the Cook County prosecutors' office said the dismissal came "after reviewing all of the facts and circumstances of the case." Tandra Simonton called it "a just disposition and appropriate resolution" but said it was not an exoneration.

First Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Magats said prosecutors "stand behind the investigation and the facts."

When dropping cases, prosecutors will sometimes insist that the defendant accept at least a measure of responsibility. Outside court, neither Smollett nor his legal team appeared to concede anything about his original report in January .

Defense attorney Patricia Brown Holmes said Smollett was "attacked by two people he was unable to identify" and "was a victim who was vilified and made to appear as a perpetrator."

Authorities alleged that Smollett, who is black and gay, knew the men and arranged for them to pretend to attack him.

Emanuel, who leaves office in May after two terms, said the hoax could endanger other gay people who report hate crimes by casting doubt on whether they are telling the truth.

Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said Chicago "is still owed an apology."

"I've heard that they wanted their day in court with TV cameras so that America could know the truth. They chose to hide behind secrecy and broker a deal to circumvent the judicial system," Johnson said at a graduation ceremony for new police cadets.

Chicago's top prosecutor, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, recused herself from the investigation before Smollett was charged, citing conversations she had with a Smollett family member.

Many legal experts were surprised by the dismissal, especially since it did not include any condition that Smollett apologize and admit he orchestrated the attack.

"This situation is totally bizarre. It's highly, highly unusual," said Phil Turner, a Chicago defense attorney and former federal prosecutor with no ties to the case.

He said it would be wrong to argue leniency on the grounds that no serious harm was done.

"The damage done was worse than a broken arm or money lost in a fraud," Turner said. "The reputation of the city has taken a tremendous blow."

Because Chicago was the primary victim, Turner argued, it would have been appropriate for prosecutors to consult the mayor and the police chief in advance.

"That prosecutors didn't seem to do that is an insult to the city and police," he said.

Smollett reported that he was attacked around 2 a.m. on Jan. 29 in downtown Chicago. Investigators said he made the false report because he was unhappy with his pay on "Empire" and believed it would promote his career.

Khalid, Brandi Carlile, Kelly Clarkson to sing at ACM Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The ACM Awards will feature collaborations between pop star Khalid and Kane Brown, three-time Grammy-winner Brandi Carlile with Dierks Bentley and pop star Kelly Clarkson pulling double-duty with performances with both Jason Aldean and Dan + Shay.

The awards show airing on CBS on April 7 is also bringing back its flashback performance slots, this time with upcoming Country Music Hall of Famers Brooks & Dunn and new male artist winner Luke Combs, who sing together on Brooks & Dunn's upcoming duets album "Reboot." Miranda Lambert, the most awarded ACM artist with 32 wins, will perform with 24-time ACM-winner George Strait, as well as sing a medley of her own hits.

Eric Church will perform with new female artist winner Ashley McBryde, while Aldean, who is receiving the ACM Artist of the Decade award, will also perform with Florida Georgia Line. Maren Morris will perform with Brothers Osborne.

Reba McEntire, who is set to host the awards show from Las Vegas, will also perform, as well as Little Big Town, Chris Stapleton, Thomas Rhett and newly announced group of the year winners LANCO. Stapleton and Dan + Shay lead the nominations with six apiece while Grammy album of the year winner Kacey Musgraves has five nominations.

Cardi B responds to backlash over her drugging, robbing men

Cardi B

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cardi B is trying to clarify herself after a video resurfaced online where the rapper said she drugged and robbed men for money.

The Grammy winner posted a statement Tuesday on Instagram that she had "very limited options" and needed to do anything to "survive." The former stripper says she wasn't trying to glorify her actions, but felt it was necessary at the time.

Cardi B is facing backlash from the Instagram Live video she says is from three years ago. Some on social media have criticized the rapper for her admission with the hashtag #SurvivingCardiB in reference to the R. Kelly documentary "Surviving R. Kelly."

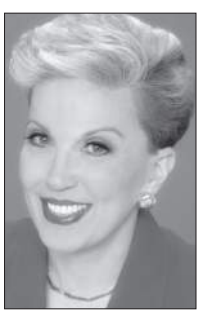
Cardi says the men she spoke about in the video were ones she dated and they were "conscious, willing and aware."

Dream of joing marine corps is shot down by mom and wife

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I'm originally from El Salvador. I have been living in the U.S. for five years, have been studying English for four years and I have my GED.

I want to join the U.S. Marine Corps because it is my dream. I want to do it because I think that service to this country is the best thing I can do. I want to protect this country, and I want my family to be proud of me.

Here is the problem: My mom and my wife don't want me to do it because they say it is dangerous. I love them both, but I want to achieve my dream. What should I do?

DREAMING IN HOUSTON

DEAR DREAMING: I appreciate the concern your mother and your wife feel for your safety. Because they love you, of course they worry. However, the person who must live your life is you. If joining the United States Marine Corps is your dream, then following your dream is what you should do. Now is the time to have a heart-to-heart talk with your wife because this decision will have an impact on her life as well as yours.

DEAR ABBY: I raised my children to be respectful, responsible adults who are career- and family-oriented. Both are college graduates, married and successful.

My eldest daughter recently announced that she has been "going through something" and surprised us with a tattoo on her shoulder sporting her children's names on a colorful, rather large background. I was shocked because she works at a large banking firm and was recently promoted as a senior financial investor. I'm now afraid it will impede her career advancement, and also concerned it will encourage her two young daughters to get tattoos.

I have never encouraged my children to do something like this. In fact, I did the opposite. I did not comment about hers. She has known how her dad and I have felt about this since she was a young child.

Am I overreacting? What does a mother say about something so permanent? I no longer feel I know this person I thought was "conservative."

DISAPPOINTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Yes, you are overreacting. This is not a referendum on your parenting or your daughter's character. In a situation like this, a mother should ask her daughter what "things" she has been going through, and what that tattoo means to her. The mother should also recognize that her daughter is an adult now, and her choice to apply body art is just that—a choice. Then she should listen carefully to what her daughter has to say, so that, if necessary, she can be supportive.

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter moved out of our home a couple of weeks ago. Do I have the right to ask for our key back since she no longer lives here and she moved in with someone I don't trust as far as I can throw him?

TEXAS GRANNY

DEAR GRANNY: You not only have the right, but your granddaughter should have offered to return the key at the time she moved out. Don't be mean about it, just ask for the key. Or, because you don't trust the person she's now living with, have your locks changed in case he has already made a copy. It may cost you some money, but your peace of mind is worth it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

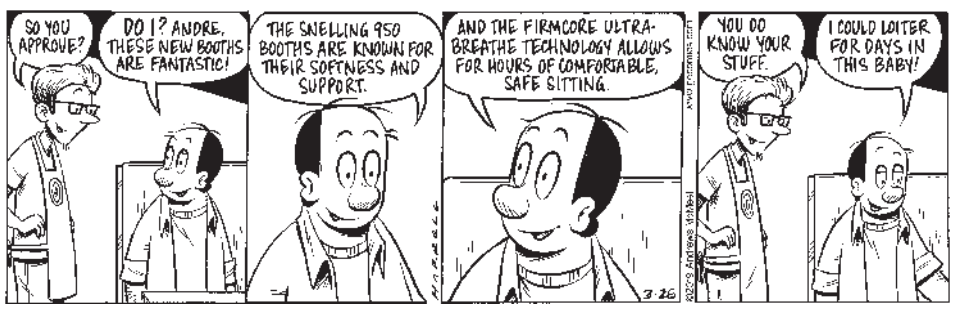
HOW DID YOU MOUNT YOUR INSECTS, SUSIE?
IN THIS BOX WITH PINS.
HMM... I DON'T HAVE A BOX OR PINS. I GUESS I'LL JUST STICK MY BUGS ON NOTEBOOK PAPER.
OOPS. TAPE DOESN'T WORK TOO WELL. GROSS. I HOPE I CAN GET HIM BACK TOGETHER.
CAN I BORROW YOUR PASTE?
THE WAY YOU'RE GOING, MAYBE YOU'D PREFER A STAPLER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

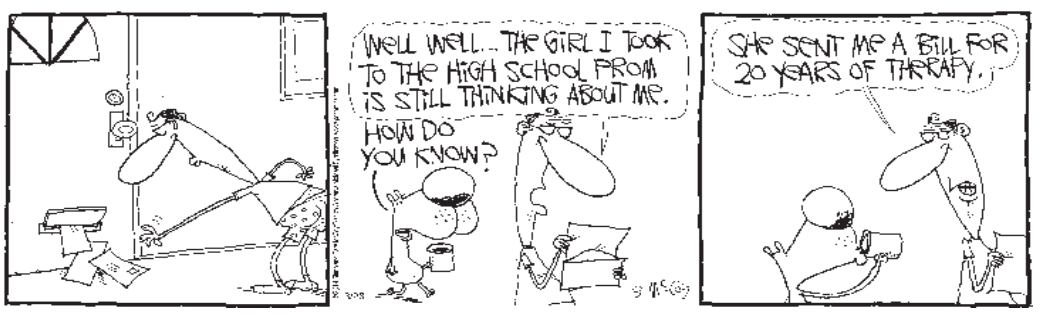
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO YOU APPROVE?
DO I? ANDRE, THESE NEW BOOTHS ARE FANTASTIC!
THE SNELLING 950 BOOTHS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR SOFTNESS AND SUPPORT.
AND THE FIRMCORE ULTRA-BREATHE TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS FOR HOURS OF COMFORTABLE, SAFE SITTING.
YOU DO KNOW YOUR STUFF.
I COULD LOITER FOR DAYS IN THIS BABY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WELL WELL... THE GIRL I TOOK TO THE HIGH SCHOOL PROM IS STILL THINKING ABOUT ME.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
SHE SENT ME A BILL FOR 20 YEARS OF THERAPY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

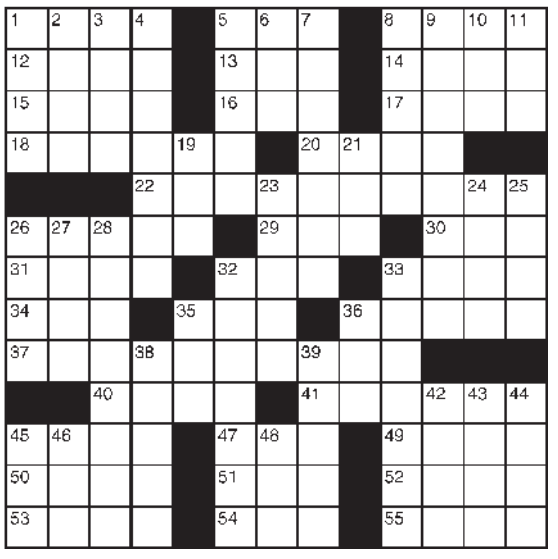
1 Bridge
5 Dallas hoopster, briefly
8 Untalkative one
12 Architect Saarinen
13 Inseparable
14 Reply to "Shall we?"
15 Legal document
16 Sailor
17 Privy to
18 Debriefed person?
20 Crib cry
22 Enigma
26 Mudville slugger
29 "Certainly!"
30 Half of CIV
31 Exploits
32 Goof up
33 Fine spray
34 Pickle holder
35 "— was saying ..."
36 "Olympia" artist
37 Batting position
40 Scruff
41 Help
45 Eager
47 Energy
49 Yon folks
50 Anti-fur org.
51 Before
52 Wheelchair access
53 Texter's sign-off
54 Last letter in London
55 Garfield's pal

DOWN

1 Stitched
2 Andean land
3 Saharan
4 Observes
5 Slogan
6 Santa — winds
7 Dutch artist
8 Scale
9 "Chocolat" actress
10 From — Z
11 AOL rival
19 Devious
21 TV spots
23 Aleppo's land
24 French river
25 Chanteuse Eartha
26 Stephen King pooch
27 Now, in a memo
28 Peace
32 Emilio of "The Breakfast Club"
33 Address for Toscanini
35 Venomous viper
36 Roast VIPs
38 Tennis star Rafael
39 Identified
42 "If — a Hammer"
43 Big rig
44 Ilk
45 Suitable
46 Dog doc
48 Rage

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lady Gaga, 33; Julia Stiles, 38; Vince Vaughn, 49; Reba McEntire, 64.

Happy Birthday: Keep a close watch on what others do and say this year. Ask if you don't understand, and question if you don't agree. Letting others know where you stand and what you are capable of doing will build trust and respect that will help you open up opportunities to advance. Make a personal adjustment to help fulfill your long-term goals. Your numbers are 2, 7, 15, 23, 30, 34, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't let negativity step in and take over. Look for the positive in everything that happens. You will find solutions and gain recognition for your ability to overcome adversity. High energy and input will lead to self-satisfaction. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take a ride on the information highway. Learn all you can, listen to what others have to say and make positive changes that will enhance your life personally and professionally. A chance to help someone you love will be rewarding. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't pay attention to anyone who is trying to sway you in one direction or another. Be true to yourself and to your beliefs. Keep your life simple and affordable to avoid stress as well as being exploited. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You don't have to struggle. Choose the path of least resistance to see how quickly you get things done. Use ingenuity, integrity and your unique imagination to your advantage. Love and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Set goals, and don't let anything distract you. Flesh out your ideas, go over details and keep your eye on how much you spend and on what. Change doesn't have to be drastic to improve your life. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You can make moves that will improve your state of mind and your prospects. Refuse to let someone make decisions for you or come between you and the people and pursuits that make you happy. Walk away from disruptive people. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Consider what's doable and what isn't. Don't put yourself in a precarious position or make promises you can't keep. Take steps to lower your overhead and to improve your skills and qualifications. Hard work will pay off. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You've got plenty going for you, so don't slow down when the momentum is pushing you toward peace of mind, emotional happiness and relationships with people who spark your imagination and touch your heart. Romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't hand out too much personal information. Listen, but don't let others cause you to doubt yourself. Think matters through, and move forward with moderation, clarity and reluctance to let anyone interfere in your life. Make home your safe place. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You've got everything going for you, so don't let anyone lead you to believe you need help. Set your mind on what you want to achieve, and bring about the changes that will set you on the right path. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider your options, and stick to what's doable. Avoid getting into an argument over something that isn't in your control. Stay centered, and look for a way to help those in need or a cause that matters to you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get involved in matters that concern you. Take it upon yourself to make a difference in your community and to reach out to people you care about. Take time to share your feelings, beliefs and what you are willing to contribute. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dogmatic, cautious and possessive. You are motivated and unyielding.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	5			6		
		8				
6	3			7		1
		3	4			
	9				7	
		6	9			
3	9			5		6
		2				
	1			3		2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	2	7	9	8	3	6	1	4
6	8	3	1	5	4	7	9	2
9	1	4	6	2	7	5	8	3
4	3	1	8	6	2	9	7	5
2	9	8	4	7	5	1	3	6
7	6	5	3	9	1	2	4	8
1	7	6	5	4	8	3	2	9
8	5	2	7	3	9	4	6	1
3	4	9	2	1	6	8	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GOOGLE PHONES — Solution: 9 letters

O	T	O	H	P	T	I	M	E	Z	E	E	U	Q	S
D	T	A	H	C	I	B	S	E	M	A	G	G	M	O
I	L	E	N	S	A	X	A	X	E	L	A	A	A	F
S	H	R	D	T	R	M	E	E	L	N	R	L	E	T
P	Y	A	T	A	T	G	E	L	D	T	O	A	R	W
L	T	E	N	N	R	T	A	R	B	E	T	X	D	A
A	R	H	A	D	O	C	O	U	A	N	S	Y	Y	R
Y	A	R	T	P	P	I	R	E	P	I	W	S	A	E
C	I	E	S	E	D	S	T	F	Z	L	U	C	D	E
O	K	H	I	D	T	X	L	E	O	N	M	R	U	L
N	O	T	S	I	E	A	N	E	L	O	U	E	O	I
T	N	A	S	T	S	E	D	O	S	O	S	E	L	F
A	O	E	A	H	X	I	C	P	G	A	I	N	C	O
C	L	W	E	U	V	K	L	A	U	N	C	H	E	R
T	O	P	S	T	O	H	A	N	D	S	E	T	S	P

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Yesterday's Answer: Brothers

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Djokovic upset by Spaniard at Miami Open

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Novak Djokovic has had a rough couple of weeks on the court.

The top-seeded Djokovic was upset by Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the fourth round of the Miami Open Tuesday.

He also made an early exit from Indian Wells earlier in the month.

Djokovic was looking to win the 850th match of his career against Bautista Agut, but that achievement will have to take place at another tournament.

"This kind of match I should not have lost," Djokovic said. "I lost the momentum, I lost the rhythm in the second set. I gave him a little room to step in and he did. A little hope that he can come back, and he made a great comeback.

"But fault is on me, for sure. I had way too many opportunities that I wasted."

Djokovic lost to Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany in the third round at Indian Wells.

Djokovic, the president of the ATP Player Council, has been a central figure in recent ATP off-court news.

He was involved when the ATP Board of Directors decided this month not to renew the contract of ATP Executive Chairman Chris Kermode when it expires at the end of the year.

Initially on Tuesday, Djokovic denied his recent losses were affected by his off-court activities within the game, but later admitted that it might have taken a toll.

AP

Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain returns to Novak Djokovic of Serbia during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla. John

"Way too many things off the court," Djokovic said. "I guess that affected me a little bit on the court.

"I didn't feel my best health-wise, as well, in Indian Wells and here. You know, still rusty, but, hey, look, you learn that's life."

After racing through the first set against Bautista Agut in 33 minutes, Djokovic lost control of the match. He only took advantage of four of 13 break points presented, and had his own serve broken on three of seven break points he faced.

"One, two, three sluggish games, and that's what happened," Djokovic added.

Djokovic was leading 6-1, 4-5 when rain delayed play for 30 minutes. Returning to the court, Djokovic surrendered his serve on a second break point in the 12th game to lose the second set.

The Serb recouped one service break in the third set, but he lost his serve again in the sixth game to fall behind 2-4.

Djokovic holds a 7-3 record over Bautista Agut, but the Spaniard has now beaten him the past two times they've played.

Bautista Agut defeated Djokovic in a three-set semifinal at the Qatar Open in January.

Earlier in the day, defending champion John Isner advanced to the quarterfinals by securing a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) win over No. 19 seed Kyle Edmund.

Isner, the seventh seed, has played five tiebreak sets in six sets played in his three-match wins to reach this year's quarters.

Roger Federer's scheduled fourth-round match against 13th-seeded Daniil Medvedev of Russia, scheduled as the second match on the stadium court, was postponed until Wednesday because of a long rain delay.

The match will now take place not before 3:00 p.m. Wednesday.

The tournament planned to complete the other three matches scheduled for Tuesday night.

Disparity in 2019 payrolls draws concern from players

PHOENIX—Major League Baseball players, who expressed their anger and consternation this spring with the growing abundance of teams' limitations in spending to be competitive, may have to look no further than the opening-day payroll disparity to validate their criticism.

While three teams will top $200 million in payroll for opening-day rosters this season, according to salary information for clubs' 40-man rosters, there are eight teams who will open the season with payrolls under $100 million.

The Red Sox, who had baseball's highest payroll a year ago when they won the World Series, once again top the charts, with a current $224.1 million payroll for their 40-man roster. The only other teams with a $200 million opening-day payroll this season are the New York Yankees ($215.1 million) and Chicago Cubs ($214.7 million), with all three teams projected to eclipse the $206 million luxury tax.

Yet, while those three teams each have been in the playoffs at least three times in the last four years, winning two World Series championships, only one of the teams with sub-$100 million payrolls have reached the playoffs in the last two years.

The eight teams with baseball's lowest projected payrolls are the Tampa Bay Rays ($61.9 million), Pittsburgh Pirates ($74.3 million), Miami Marlins ($76.1 million), Baltimore Orioles ($80.8 million), Oakland Athletics ($91.1 million), Chicago White Sox ($92.8 million), San Diego Padres ($94 million) and Kansas City Royals ($96.7 million).

While the A's earned a wild-card berth last season, the Royals are the only other team among the sub-$100 million club who have won a division title since 2015.

Tony Clark, the Major League Baseball Players Association executive director, said he and the players want every team trying win a World Series, spending as if they care about winning.

Instead, there are 11 teams with payrolls that are $60 million or more under the luxury tax.

"At the end of the day, the idea is that, 'Hope springs eternal' across the league as we start the season," Clark said this spring. "And right now, we don't believe that is the case."

The disparity in payrolls exemplifies why there may be a push for a salary floor in the next collective bargaining agreement, which players have openly discussed. It's disturbing to have a team like the Red Sox to have three pitchers (David Price, $31 million; Rick Porcello, $21.1 million; and Chris Sale, $15 million) earn more than the entire Rays' team.

The Red Sox, in fact, are paying more money to third baseman Pablo Sandoval, who they released two years ago, than seven teams are paying their highest-paid player.

There has been $917 million spent in contract extensions alone in the last week, led by Mike Trout's record $426.5 million deal with the Los Angeles Angels.

Yet, while teams like the Red Sox—who gave Sale a five-year, $145 million extension —already have $98.6 million committed to their payroll in 2022, there are 12 teams who have less than $15 million on the books in three years, with the Marlins not having a single penny owed to a player past 2020.

"One of the best things about baseball is the competitive integrity of the game," Cleveland Indians co-ace Trevor Bauer said in February. "For a long time, it's been because of a lack of a salary cap. But I think we have a pseudo-salary cap now with the luxury tax.

"That needs to change."

They now have the numbers to prove it.

Jacob deGrom, Mets agree to $137.5M extension

Jacob deGrom finally got paid, just two days before opening day.

The reigning National League Cy Young winner and the New York Mets agreed to a five-year, $137.5 million extension.

The deal begins in 2019 and includes an opt-out after the 2022 season—the same year as Boston Red Sox's Chris Sales' opt-out.

He will earn $7 million in 2019, including a $10 million signing bonus, followed by $23 million in 2020, $33.5 million in 2021-22, $30.5 million in 2023 with a club option in 2024.

DeGrom had an unprecedented 2018 season. He finished with a minuscule 1.70 ERA, sixth lowest among qualifiers since the mound was lowered to its current height in 1969.

His 10 victories was the lowest win total ever for a starting Cy Young winner. Seattle Mariners pitcher Felix Hernandez had 13 victories when he won the 2010 AL Cy Young.

Verlander's $94M 4th-highest

Justin Verlander has the fourth-highest average salary in the major leagues in his $94 million, three-year contract with the Houston Astros.

The 36-year-old right-hander had been due $28 million in 2019, the final guaranteed season of a $180 million, seven-year deal he signed with Detroit before the 2013 season.

That salary is kept in his new deal, which adds $33 million annually in 2020 and 2021.

His average annual value of $31,333,333.33 trails only Trout ($35.5 million), Arizona pitcher Zack Greinke ($34.4 million) and Colorado third baseman Nolan Arenado ($32.5 million) and is just ahead of Boston pitcher David Price and Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw (both $31 million).

Verlander has a full no-trade provision as part of the deal announced last weekend.

He would get $200,000 for winning a Cy Young Award, $175,000 for finishing second in the voting, $150,000 for third, $125,000 for fourth and $100,000 for fifth. He also would get $75,000 for making the All-Star team, $75,000 for a Gold Glove, $75,000 for League Championship Series MVP and $100,000 for World Series MVP.

Bucks bring down Rockets to keep best record

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Eric Bledsoe stole the show in a marquee matchup between the Milwaukee Bucks and Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

With top-billing going to MVP front-runners Giannis Antetokounmpo and James Harden, the feisty Bucks' guard turned in one his best all-around performances of the season as the Bucks pulled away for a 108-94 victory on Tuesday night.

Bledsoe poured in 23 points, including 16 in a decisive third quarter, and tightly guarded Harden for most of the game.

"I just try to play to my strengths," Bledsoe said.

Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer praised Bledsoe's all-around performance.

"To do what he did on both ends of the court, pretty special," Budenholzer said. "I think he loves that challenge. I think he's an incredible defender."

Antetokounmpo had 19 points and 14 rebounds for Milwaukee, which improved to an NBA-best 56-19.

Harden scored 23 points and Chris Paul had 19 for Houston, which lost for just the third time in 17 games. Harden shot just 9 of 26, including 1 for 9 from 3-point range with Bledsoe closely guarding him throughout most of the game.

"We had our open shots. We couldn't know them down," Harden said. "We competed but they went on a run in that third quarter and that was it."

After a tightly contested first half, the Bucks grabbed control in the third, sparked by Bledsoe's clutch shooting. Leading by five at halftime, Milwaukee built a 19-point lead in the third. Bledsoe went 4 of 5 on 3-pointers in the period after missing his only two attempts in the first half. His third-quarter output, which included a single-handed 11-0 run, nearly matched the 18 points scored by Houston.

"Everybody got energy out of that and we played even harder," Antetokounmpo said.

Milwaukee held the Rockets at bay for most of the final quarter, maintaining a double-digit lead throughout before clearing the bench with about a minute left.

The Rockets jumped out early, building a 10-point first-quarter lead without Harden doing the bulk of the scoring. Danuel House Jr. paced Houston with nine points in the period, making all three of his 3-point attempts. The Bucks struggled in the opening period, shooting just 8 of 25, including 3 for 13 from deep. Khris Middleton missed all six of his shots in the first quarter.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez shoots between Houston Rockets' Danuel House Jr. and Austin Rivers during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in Milwaukee. The Bucks won, 108-94.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	52	23	.693	—
x-Philadelphia	47	27	.635	4.5
x-Boston	44	31	.587	8
Brooklyn	38	37	.507	14
New York	14	60	.189	37.5

Central Division

y-Milwaukee	56	19	.747	—
x-Indiana	45	29	.608	10.5
Detroit	37	37	.500	18.5
Chicago	21	54	.280	35
Cleveland	19	56	.253	37

Southeast Division

Orlando	37	38	.493	—
Miami	36	38	.486	0.5
Charlotte	35	39	.473	1.5
Washington	30	44	.405	6.5
Atlanta	27	48	.360	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	50	23	.685	—
x-LA Clippers	45	30	.600	6.0
Sacramento	37	37	.500	13.5
LA Lakers	32	41	.438	18
Phoenix	17	58	.227	34

Southwest Division

x-Houston	47	28	.627	—
San Antonio	43	32	.573	4
New Orleans	31	45	.408	16.5
Memphis	30	44	.405	16.5
Dallas	29	45	.392	17.5

Northwest Division

x-Denver	50	23	.685	—
x-Portland	46	27	.630	4
Utah	44	30	.595	6.5
Oklahoma City	43	31	.581	7.5
Minnesota	33	41	.446	17.5

x- clinched playoff spot
y- clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kings 125, Mavericks 121

In Dallas, De'Aaron Fox scored 23 points, including a crucial basket to help Sacramento stay in front in the final minute, and the Kings beat the Mavericks.

With the Kings leading by two, Fox drove and missed a layup but got his own rebound and tried again. The second attempt went in for a 121-117 lead with 26 seconds remaining as Sacramento finished 3-0 against Mavericks, sweeping the season series for the first time since 1997-98.

Dallas rookie sensation Luka Doncic tied Magic Johnson with his seventh triple-double in his first season, getting 28 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists. It's the third-most triple-doubles by a rookie. Dwight Powell had 21 points and a season-high 13 rebounds.

Hornets 125, Spurs 116, OT

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 11 of his 38 points in overtime and the Hornets outlasted San Antonio to stretch its longest winning streak of the season to four games.

Walker took over in the extra period, scoring Charlotte's first seven points and going 4 of 4 from the field, including a pair of clutch 3-pointers. He barely missed his third career triple-double, finishing with 11 assists and nine rebounds.

It was Charlotte's first overtime win this season in five tries.

Clippers 122, Timberwolves 111

In Minneapolis, Danilo Gallinari scored 25 points and the Los Angeles Clippers clinched a playoff spot with a win over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Coach Doc Rivers' club is back in the postseason after falling short last year. Los Angeles finished 42-40 last season, missing the playoffs after making it six straight years—four under Rivers.

The Clippers (45-30) became the fifth Western Conference team to secure a postseason berth.

Magic 104, Heat 99

In Miami, Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 16 rebounds, Jonathan Issac added 19 points and Orlando extended its longest winning streak in eight years to six games by downing the Heat.

D.J. Augustin scored 17 points and Aaron Gordon finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic (37-38), who won the season series 3-1 and moved past the Heat (36-38) into eighth place in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Evan Fournier added 11 points for Orlando, which hadn't had a winning streak this long since January 2011.

Celtics 116, Cavaliers 106

In Cleveland, Jayson Tatum and Marcus Smart each scored 21 points, and Boston broke away from a fourth-quarter tie to defeat the Cavaliers.

Kyrie Irving (rest) didn't play for Boston, but the Celtics snapped a four-game losing streak and are 11-2 without their leading scorer.

Al Horford had 19 points, including eight in the fourth quarter and the go-ahead layup early in the period.

Raptors 112, Bulls 103

In Toronto, Norman Powell scored 20 points, Serge Ibaka had 16 and the Raptors beat struggling Chicago for the eighth consecutive time.

Kawhi Leonard and Kyle Lowry each added 14 points before sitting out the final quarter, and Pascal Siakam had 13. The Raptors never trailed and avoided their first three-game home losing streak of the season. Toronto lost to Charlotte on Sunday on a halfcourt buzzer-beater by Jeremy Lamb.

Hawks 130, Pelicans 120

In New Orleans, Rookie guard Trae Young had 33 points and 12 assists for his 24th double-double of the season, leading Atlanta past the Pelicans.

Young finished 12 of 24 from the field, including 5 for 12 from 3-point range, and had one turnover in 31 minutes.

DeAndre' Bembry and Dewayne Dedmon each scored 18 points for the Hawks.

Kidd coy on response about coaching Lakers

Hall of Famer Jason Kidd is on the hunt for another coaching opportunity, and he recently opened up about the rumors regarding his next landing spot.

The 46-year-old was a guest on "The Jump" and was pressed by Rachel Nichols about where he could see himself returning to the sideline.

Kidd was coy on his response when discussing the opportunity to coach the Los Angeles Lakers, but admitted their attitude toward championships is enough incentive to accept the challenge.

"I think when you look at the Lakers as a whole, it's a franchise that is one of the best in the world—not just in the NBA, but in the world," Kidd explained. "And so, if you ever have the opportunity to wear the purple and gold, you can't turn that down —as a coach, as a player—because they're all about championships."

Luke Walton is currently the head coach of the storied franchise, however ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski reported Sunday the Lakers are a possible landing spot for the 2011 NBA champion should Walton be relieved of his duties.

Kidd has also been linked to Cal, where he played from 1992-94. Head coach Wyking Jones was fired on Sunday, and Kidd also spoke about the chance to return where his career began.

"I think Cal is a great institution," Kidd said. "We'll see what happens. I would love to get back to coaching at any level, college or the NBA. So, it's nice to be wanted. That just tells me I'm doing the right thing."

Kidd was awarded National Freshman of the Year in 1992-93 and led Cal to a Sweet 16 appearance that same year.

Kidd's last coaching stint was with the Milwaukee Bucks, where he served as head coach from 2014 until he was fired midway through the 2017-18 season. The Bucks never made it out of the first round of the playoffs under Kidd. This year, in their first year under Mike Budenholzer, the Bucks have the best record in the NBA at 55-19.

Pass interference now reviewable by officials

PHOENIX (AP)—Roger Goodell laid down the law, and the owners readily changed NFL rules on reviewing pass interference, whether flagged or not.

As the league concluded its spring meeting one day early, the owners passed by a shockingly overwhelming 31-1 margin that interference can be challenged by coaches and reviewed by officials next season.

Owners voted on a one-year trial basis to include those often-controversial penalties in the officiating replay review system. Coaches still will have two challenges per game, and in the final two minutes of a half or fourth quarter or for all of overtime, the replay official can order a review of offensive or defensive pass interference.

The major change—owners traditionally have been highly reluctant to include any penalties in the replay process—stems from an egregious missed call in the NFC championship game that likely led to the Rams making the Super Bowl and the Saints falling short.

"I told the owners we need to get to a place, and I felt strongly we should have OPI and DPI and that we should be able to throw flags (that were not thrown on the field," Goodell said. "Everyone in there finally got to understand through a long process and a lot of discussion, everyone wanted to get it right. Some had to remove themselves from long-shared views."

The competition committee, which recommends rules changes to the ownership, had been split 4-4 on adding interference penalties, particularly non-flagged ones, to replay. But they tweaked the proposal, and it remains part of the overall replay system, which was a critical component.

SSC

From Page 28

Tony Raho and Jinju Thompson also completed the five-lap course and submitted 1:40:38 and 1:18:20, respectively.

In the 3.9K race, Jinnosuke Suzuki was the first finisher with his 54:41 and was followed by Taiyo Akimaru (57:66), Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (59:32), and Jinie Thompson (1:16:59). Michael Miller completed the top finishers in the competitive swims after clocking in at 20:55 in the 1K course and beating three others.

"It is great to see a mix of swimmers and parents and volunteers there to celebrate not only swimming, but family. To add to the event, the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation organized an open water swimming developmental clinic that ran in conjunction with the ocean swim," Winkfield said.

"John West, an open water technical official from FINA, led the clinic that focused on rules, organization, logistics, and safety aspects of hosting a FINA open water event. The clinic was very informative and gave the participants a more comprehensive look at open water swimming and the huge potential that it has here on Saipan," the SSC coach added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Manuel Magboo runs out of the water to complete the one-kilometer race in last Saturday's 40th Saipan Swim Club Saipan Ocean Swim.

FAVORED

From Page 28

all of Agape's 12 points, while the Geckos were held to just 8 markers. Then in the final canto, Shao did the damage in the paint with four point-blank shots, while Yang and Xu connected on a couple of fancy plays, as the Torchbearers ended the game in style.

Yang led all scorers with 24 points, while Shao and Xiong submitted 14 each, and Xu added 13. Jason Sablan netted 12 points and Lee logged 11 markers.

Meanwhile, joining Agape 1 in the semis were No. 1 Kagman, No. 2 Mt. Carmel School 1, and No. 3 Saipan Southern High School.

Kagman overpowered No. 8 Agape 2, 102-58.

Kobe Lifoifoi top-scored for the Ayuyus with his 23 markers, while Henry Aguon, Chris Sacdalan, and Mustafa Augustino logged 14, 13, and 10 points, respectively.

The Ayuyus leaned on their hot shooting from beyond the arc to demolish Agape 2, as the former knocked in 16 shots from deep.

After eliminating Agape 2, next up for Kagman is Agape 1, as they battle for the first finals ticket today in the 3:30pm match at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The other finals berth will be disputed by MCS 1 and Saipan Southern, which ousted No. 7 Grace Christian Academy, 78-24, and MCS 2, 69-32, respectively.

The Knights 1 was led by Chioni Delacruz and Matthew Ong's 14 and 13 points, while Seung Jun Baek finished with 14 markers on a losing effort.

Agape 1 71 —Yang 24, Shao 14, Xiong 14, Xu 13, Wang 6.

SIS 43 — Jason Sablan 12, Lee 11, J.P. Sablan 8, Nishimura 7, Hudkins 3, Guo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 36-23, 48-31, 71-43

TAGAMAN

From Page 28

memories of his early Tagaman days, including his "training buddies" and the person who inspired him to try the sport.

"I was first inspired by Mr. Chang (Chan Whang Jang), the marathon runner. He completed the first ever Tagaman even though he was mostly a distance runner. He received one of the bikes given to encourage local residents to participate. Mr. Chang told me he could not swim very well and did a lot of it doing side-stroke. I thought that if he could do Tagaman, then maybe I could too, and I joined Tony Stearns and others who were training for the next race," Adams said.

"There were a bunch of us from Saipan training together for the 3rd Tagaman. Tony organized the training races and I remember riding along with him, Jerry Facey, and Keith Aughenbaugh trying to keep up. The main memory I had of my first Tagaman was that I finished. That was really my only goal. When I took my glasses off to swim it was hard to see since I am a bit blind. I would just follow the other swimmers since I could not see the next bouy," he added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mike Adams, right, poses with local athlete Daniel Calvo before the swim leg of one of the Tagaman Triathlon events.

Adams completed his first Tagaman in about five hours and then had a better time (4:50:00) in the second when he trained better.

"This year I am aiming to match or beat my time from seven years ago. My goal is simply to keep finishing Tagaman for as many years as I can. I have never been a fast racer, for me it was always about finishing," he said.

He looks forward to enjoying the Saipan water when he races this weekend.

"I have always been a swimmer and enjoy that the most. After I started wearing contact lenses, I enjoyed the swim section so much more since I could see everything. I love seeing tropical fish go by and one time on the Rota race, people saw sea turtles swimming by. I had to remind myself 'hey, you're in a race and stop watching all the fish.'" Adams said.

"I always knew I would come back 30 years later. During my first race I was inspired by a 60-year-old Japanese triathlete, I think his name was Mr. Watanabe. As I took off on the run I noticed his even steady pace as I passed him by. Later as I was slowing down, I heard his even footsteps as he caught up and passed me. I thought to myself right then, 'if I am still finishing Tagaman when I am 60 years old I would be really happy.' His example taught me to run my own race, which is something I will try to do again this year."

MP

From Page 27

Shirley's opened a 4-1 halftime lead and never looked back, handing Kanoa-2 its fourth loss in as many games.

CO-ED U12 DIVISION
Kanoa 6, TanHoldings 2

Kanoa is unbeaten, too in the co-ed U12 age group, bagging its fourth victory after topping TanHoldings.

Paul Lizama towed Kanoa to the easy win after making a hat trick. He scored in the 23rd, 43rd, and 47th minute. Izeah Jolo added a pair of goals (32nd and 60th minute), while Isaiah Chargualaf contributed one.

TanHoldings' two goals came from Jared Coby Villagmez and Andre Kaithlyn Chavez, who hit the back of the net in the 30th and 39th minute, respectively.

MP United 8, Shirley's 1

MP United notched win No. 2 after whipping Shirley's.

Ian Song, Savita Sikkel, and William Sosa delivered two goals apiece for MP United, while Xavier Lee and Kelly McCallion recorded one each. MP United broke away from Shirley's in the second half, which started with the winning team ahead by only two. Shirley's avoided a shutout when Arif Khan scored in the second half.

BOYS U18 DIVISION
Matansa 5, Kanoa 3

In last Friday's game in the U18 division, Matansa edged Kanoa.

Ronnel Ocanada and Razeff Altamirano teamed up in handing Matansa its second win in three games. Ocanada drilled the squad's first two goals in the first half to lead Kanoa, which got one goal in that period from Andruw Omealu.

Omelau added one more in the 48th minute to knot the count, while Ian Karl Maniago's shot seven minutes later put Kanoa in the lead. However, Kanoa's stay on top was short-lived, as Romel Mendoza tied the match in the 56th minute, while back-to-back goals from Altamirano sealed it for Matansa.

MP United 4, CNMI Boys U15 1

MP United kept its perfect record after defeating the CNMI Boys U15 National Team.

John Bucayo scored a pair of goals for the streaking MP United, while Joshua Abragan and Eun Syu Hahn chipped in one apiece. The CNMI Boys U15's lone goal was courtesy of Brian Lubao and the squad has yet to win a match this season.

Balas, Patriots-Angels dispute softball crown

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Balas doubled up the Ayuyus, 20-10, to secure a spot in the finals of the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fastpitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Balas' impressive performance on both ends of the field gave the team a 14-0 advantage in the first two innings and it never looked back to beat the Ayuyus in the second semis berth.

Apple Tyquiengco led Balas' strong start, as she hit a grand slam at the bottom of the first inning. The Balas' starting pitcher brought home with her Maria Igitol, Amy Cabrera, and Tamisha Sablan. Angel Deleon Guerrero, Keona Rogopes, and Cheyenne Sablan also reached for Balas in the first inning.

Balas sustained its momentum in the second inning with Tyquiengco again, anchoring the team's offense, as she blasted a two-run homer. The next five batters of Balas also made it home for the eventual finalist's commanding lead, as the Lady Ayuyus had no response early in the game.

Things continued to look bleak for the Ayuyus in the third inning after their first two batters—Juanah Lizama and Esper Santos—struck out. However, to their relief, Nana Camacho managed to cross home plate off Balas' error. Not to be outdone, Balas countered with Deleon Guerrero and Tamisha Sablan scoring to increase their lead, 16-1.

Balas and the Ayuyus each scored one run in the fourth inning, allowing the former to keep its safe distance before the latter attempted a comeback in the fifth. The Ayuyus produced seven runs with Camacho, Selina Taitano, Joan Weita, Camille Muna, Mymy Welson, Ane Magofna, and Pauline Bondoe scoring to keep their team in the game. However, when it was Balas' turn at bat, Agulto homered and drove in Rogopes and Cheyenne Sablan to ice the game and pave their path to a finals duel against the Patriots-Angels this Saturday. The Patriots-Angels earlier bagged the first finals berth after blanking the Niners, 26-0.

Balas is the underdog in the title match, as the squad is just a newly organized team. However, the group is counting on its chemistry to give the favored Patriots-Angels a good fight.

"Without [my team] giving their best effort, we wouldn't make it to the championship," Tyquiengco said. "At first, when we watched the Ayuyus and Patriots-Angels, we got scared and had butterflies, but now it's like a regular game for us since we challenged them already."

"We have to improve our batting and timing the ball, but most importantly our communication," she added.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Apple Tyquiengco pitches for Balas during their semis game against the Ayuyus in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fastpitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CNMI junior golfers compete in PH tourney

CNMI junior golfers Edward Lee and Sebastian Camacho left Saipan yesterday to compete in the Philippine Airlines/Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines Inter Club Tournament.

Lee and Camacho will be playing in the competition that will be held at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Cavite this weekend as part of their preparations for the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

Lee and Camacho is part of a 16-player team which includes junior golfers from the Guam Junior Golf League. This will be Lee and Camacho's second time to play in the PH tournament.

Last year, Lee stunned his competitors after placing tied for first in the U14 division. He ended up taking the runner-up honors after losing in the playoff hole against Manila Orchard's Soo Kim.

"The PAL was a good learning experience for me. Competing against the best junior golfers from the Philippines will only make me a better golfer. I look forward to returning in the tournament to do better than last year, team up with Guam juniors, and show that junior golfers from Saipan and this region can compete," Lee said.

Camacho, on the other hand, has sharpened his game after his debut in the PAL-sponsored event last year.

The two junior golfers, along with Ryan Kim, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho J.J. Atalig, and Tony Satur (alternate player) will be representing the CNMI in the Pacific Games in Apia this summer. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Edward Lee, left, and Sebastian Camacho pose for a photo during a break in their training session at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last week.

MP United, Kanoa-1 extend streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club and Kanoa Football Club-1 rolled to their fourth straight win in the boys U15 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

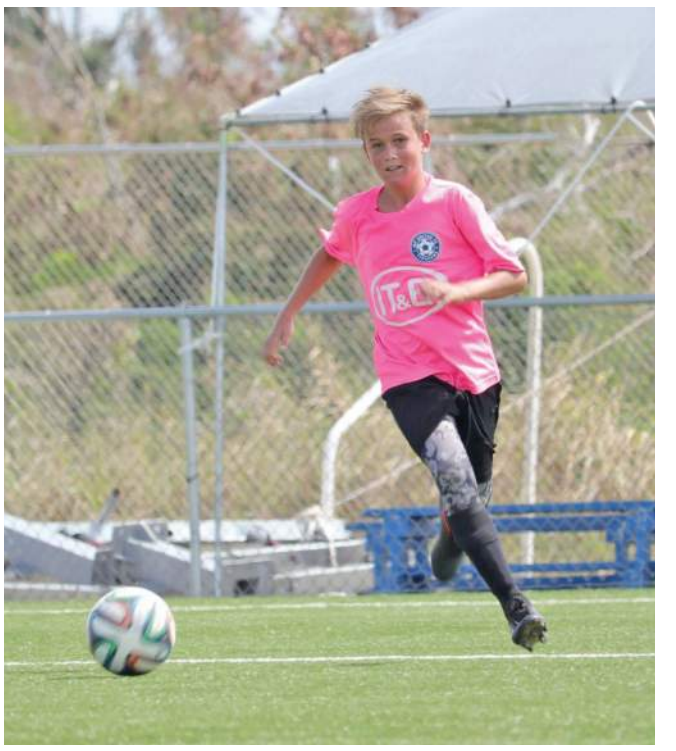
Kanoa-1 kept its undefeated record after four matches following a 7-0 victory over TanHoldings FC, while MP United earned the same mark after shutting down Matansa, 3-0. Shirley's FC completed the Week 4 winners list in the division after downing Kanoa-2, 7-3.

Three different players scored in MP United's triumph over Matansa with Justin Weaver drawing first blood in the fifth minute. Richard Castro made it a 2-0 advantage for MP United with his goal in the 30th minute, while Richard Steele closed out for the division co-leader after finding his target in the 55th.

Three players also hit the board in Kanoa's lopsided win over TanHoldings. Jim Kurt Maniago and Jaydee Jose drilled three goals each, while Markus Toves delivered one. Jose and Maniago knocked in two apiece in the first half, while Toves also scored in the opening frame to put the game away.

In the Shirley's-Kanoa-2 match, the former also banked on a good start to notch win No. 2.

See MP on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MP United Football Club's Dylan Mister scans the field first before kicking the ball during their game against Matansa FC in the boys U15 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of March 24, 2019)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	4	4	0	0	33	4	29	12
MP United	4	2	0	2	20	14	6	6
TanHoldings	4	2	0	2	11	21	-10	6
Shirley's	4	0	0	4	3	28	-25	0

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	4	4	0	0	39	2	37	12
MP United	4	4	0	0	21	1	20	12
TanHoldongs	4	2	0	2	13	10	3	6
Shirley's	4	2	0	2	9	17	-8	6
Matansa	4	0	0	4	0	18	-18	0
Kanoa-2	4	0	0	4	4	38	-34	0

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Kanoa	4	3	1	0	18	7	11	10
Southern United	4	3	1	0	10	1	9	10
TanHoldings	4	1	3	0	10	7	3	6
MP United	4	1	1	2	9	10	-1	4
Matansa	4	1	0	3	5	15	-10	3
Paire	4	0	0	4	6	18	-12	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	4	4	0	0	22	2	20	12
TanHoldings	3	2	0	1	11	5	6	6
Matansa	3	2	0	1	6	7	-1	6
U15NT	3	0	0	3	1	10	-9	0
Kanoa	3	0	0	3	4	20	-16	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Kanoa	3	3	0	0	25	18	7	9
MP United	4	3	0	1	44	11	33	9
Southern United	3	2	0	1	14	14	0	6
TanHoldings	3	0	0	3	5	18	-13	0
Matansa	3	0	0	3	3	42	-39	0

Djokovic upset by Spaniard at Miami Open

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bucks bring down Rockets to keep best record

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Favored teams advance

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School 1's Mark Shao blocks the shot of Saipan International School's Kuu Nishimura during their playoff game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Agape court in Gualo Rai.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The Top 4 finishers in the regular season of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League all made it to the semifinals after beating their respective opponents yesterday.

Over at the Agape Christian School court in Gualo Rai, No. 4 Agape 1 advanced after dominating No. 5 Saipan International School, 71-43.

The Torchbearers were off to a strong start, scoring 21 points in the first quarter and then buried the Geckos with a 23-point output in the final canto.

Kobe Yang returned from a two-game absence due to illness and made his presence felt when he kicked off the game with a floater. He Jonathan Xiong, and Silas Xu were off to the races, as they combined for 12 fastbreak points, while the towering Mark Shao struck hard with two putbacks, giving Agape a 21-13 advantage.

The Geckos got their baker's dozen off Michael Lee's 5 points and baskets from siblings Jason and J.P. Sablan and Kuu Nishimura.

In the second canto, Yang and Xiong continued to cause problems to SIS' defense, as the duo accounted for 9 markers, while Shao, Xu, and Peter Wang each hit shots to pull away even further, 36-23.

Wang and Yang then teamed up when action resumed in the third period, as they scored

See FAVORED on Page 26

Sexagenarian returns for Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Before former Saipan resident Mike Adams left the island in the early 2000s, he told the people behind Tagaman Triathlon that he will still go through the course and they would have to time him if the race has been scrapped.

"Before I left Saipan I told Bill Sakovich, Wolf Mojica, and Bobby Winkfield 'you have to keep running Tagaman so I can come back when I'm 60! If the race is not being run anymore I will still come back to run it again and you can time me and hold my bike,'" said the Cambodia-based Adams.

Sakovich and company are spared from the hustle, as Tagaman Triathlon continues and will have its 30th edition this Saturday.

"I am so pleased to see that the tradition of the Tagaman race is still being carried on today," said Adams, who are among the athletes returning to Saipan to race in this weekend's event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mike Adams celebrates at the finish line of one of the Tagaman Triathlon races he completed.

"Since my very first Tagaman (1990), it has been my life-fitness goal to return to Saipan and complete the Tagaman Triathlon in every decade age group category until I was 60. I did Tagaman in my 30s and 40s while we lived on Saipan and I returned when I was in my 50s a few years back. This year I turned 60, so it's time to do Tagaman in my fourth decade," he said.

Adams still has vivid

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SSC marks 4 decades of ocean swim

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REPORTER

More than 20 swimmers joined the historic 40th Saipan Swim Club Saipan Ocean Swim held last Saturday in the waters off Susupe.

Long-time swimmers and a handful of first-timers plunged into the lagoon, going around colorful buoys and getting a clear look of the partially submerged World War II tanks by participating in one of the longest-running ocean swims in the Pacific.

"We congratulate the 23 participants who made this 40th special. We had several first time swimmers—Jordan and Avalon Fryling, Georgia Baetge, Lola Guerrero, Jenny Zhang, Michael Miller, Zeno Iwami, Manuel Magboo, Nagi Tenorio, and Janet King—and they did an outstanding job. We also had a participant from Hilo Hawaii, Catherine Spina, who heard about the SOS from Bill Sakovich. It was great to share the beauty of the SOS with swimmers from around the world," SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield said.

Spina joined the 5.2-kilometer swim and timed in at 1:37:20, while Lennosuke Suzuki and David Boyer had the fastest times (1:18:17) in the longest race of the day.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club swimmers rush to the water during the 40th Saipan Swim Club Saipan Ocean Swim held last Saturday in the waters off Susupe.

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